



Protests, media frenzy spur campus-wide racism debate



Brody, Black Student Union move beyond controversy, focus on long-term diversity

By SAL GENTILE and CHARLES TSAI
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Rumors, accusations and even threats have flown in the wake of last week's uproar over the Sigma Chi fraternity's "Halloween in the Hood" party, as a debate evolves out of the controversy over whether or not the incident was symptomatic of a deeper undercurrent of institutional racism on campus.

As the flurry of media attention that descended around the incident begins to settle down, and the University outlines its agenda for easing simmering racial sensitivities on campus, a tense back-and-forth has begun to take shape over the Black Student Union's (BSU) reaction and allegations that the party was indeed "racist."

BSU President Christina Chapman, a senior, and University President William Brody have denied that the growing argument over whether or not the party was racist is even an issue, and both say they have moved on to concentrating on the broader issue of how to promote diversity on campus.

At a forum on Monday that was both less animated and less attended than the first, Brody reiterated his initial reaction of a week ago that he was "personally appalled," and

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JHU-run free clinic shuts down

By PATRICIA PUGH
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The Caroline Street Clinic for the Uninsured will be closing its doors at the end of this year due to a number of unresolved problems with patient care and practical operations.

The clinic was open on Monday and Tuesday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. and saw about 40 people per week. Its focus was to help patients manage chronic conditions like high blood pressure, diabetes and asthma. One of the primary ideas behind its founding was to make general medical treatment more easily and cheaply obtainable for citizens who might otherwise have ended up in emergency rooms.

Located in East Baltimore, the clinic was a project funded and run by the Johns Hopkins Urban Health Institute (UHI). It opened in November, 2004 to provide basic primary care free of charge to patients without health insurance. The facility was staffed entirely by professional and student volunteers from the Hopkins system. Around 40 percent of people seen were Hispanic, and the clinic became a prime opportunity for students interested in bilingual health care to gain experience with non-English speaking patients.

The project reported through Steven Knapp, provost, to President Brody. When it was moved under the school of Public Health, Robert Blum became interim director of UHI. Blum felt that a clinical operation should not be run through the school of public health and that another home for it be found. As this

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PHOTOS BY SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER
The Baltimore NAACP holds a rally to show support for the Black Student Union on Friday (top); President William Brody answers questions at a forum on Monday.

Baltimore community members voice mixed reactions toward fraternity's actions and the ensuing controversy

By XIAO-BO YUAN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The Homewood campus has rarely been under more scrutiny. In the aftermath of Sigma Chi's now-infamous Halloween party, national and local press converged upon Hopkins, and community members have spoken out, expressing shock, outrage and uncertainty in equal doses.

The reactions and conclusions are decidedly mixed. Some view Sigma Chi's "Halloween in the Hood" party, which has drawn strident criticism and University sanctions for the use of an invitation filled with racially-charged descriptions, as an unfortunate

incident caused by the foolish insensitivity of individual fraternity members.

Others, however, see the fraternity party as an indication of a larger problem of institutional racism at Hopkins — one which has afflicted minority, and particularly African-American, students at the University for decades.

"I was disappointed that [Sigma Chi] would hold a party with such offensive scenes and signs and images," Ralph E. Moore, Jr., a Hopkins alumnus who graduated in 1974, said.

The fraternity came under fire for an invitation, posted on Facebook that referred to

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Study claims that liberal bias hurts colleges

By GRAHAM ELLIS
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Though a number of faculty have denied that the presence of political ideologies in the classroom has an unfavorable effect on the Hopkins education, a new study claims that liberal bias exists at most of the country's colleges and universities, and that this bias hurts higher education.

The report, published by the Institute for Jewish and Community Research, has found that an overwhelming majority of American college and university faculty hold liberal biases in political and social ideology which frequently influence their teaching. The report, entitled "A Profile of American College Faculty," warns of the dangers that political uniformity brings to the educational system and calls for an attempt to diversify faculty in the American educational system.

The institute, an international think tank based in San Francisco, defines liberal bias as, "criticism of many American foreign and domestic policies, propensity to blame America for world problems, a tendency to strongly support international institutions such as the United Nations, strong opposition to American unilateralism, criticism of big business [and] skepticism about capitalism's ability to help address poverty in developing nations."

The lack of diversity was found to be most prevalent in

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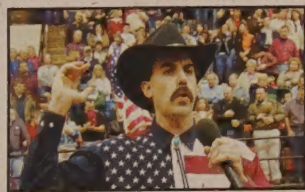


SPORTS

• **Women's soccer** won the Centennial Conference Tournament and are headed to the NCAA Tournament with a record of 17-2. They will play Salisbury in the first round, **A12**.

ARTS

• Before you see **Borat** this weekend be sure to check out our review, **B7**.



THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

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Off-campus crime sees sudden surge

By KATLYN TORGERSON
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Campus security has been investigating a series of off-campus criminal incidents that have included armed robberies, theft, assault and four burglaries in the past two weeks.

Two of these burglaries victimized Hopkins students. On two occasions, burglars took laptops, a digital camera and a game console, among other items. Burglars were able to steal nothing in the other two incidents, as the residents walked in and the suspects quickly fled.

"In the areas where we patrol off-campus, crime incidents remain low and consistent with the previous year. There has been an increase in burglaries outside our patrol boundaries," Edmund G. Skrodzki, executive director of Campus Safety and Security, said.

According to Skrodzki, the Baltimore Police Department Northern District has increased the number of detectives investigating these burglaries. Campus Safety and Security has been

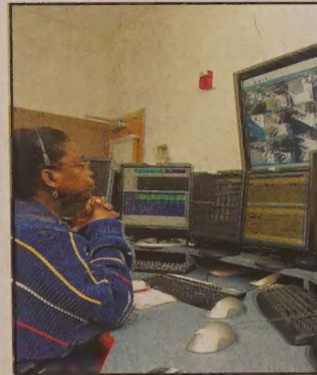
working closely with them, monitoring activity in these areas and conducting a daily liaison with them.

"According to the Baltimore Police Department, the modus operandi reflects a one or two-person team committing the vast majority of the burglaries," he said.

These incidents generally occurred between 8 p.m. and 4 a.m., entering through unlocked rear doors, unlocked windows or even inadequately secured window air conditioners. The burglar has also used fire escapes to enter upper floors.

Beyond these burglaries, Campus Security reports a number of other off-campus crimes from the past two weeks, including armed robbery, theft and assault.

Two separate armed robberies have targeted undergraduates. On Oct. 28, four unidentified males approached two sophomores in an alley near eastern campus. One of the students was assaulted with a stick and fists. Their wallet was stolen, while the other student was held back.



COURTESY OF WILL KIRK
A security employee monitors off-campus activity, which has seen a recent spike.

The criminals were not apprehended, although the Baltimore Police and Campus Officers responded and searched the area. The student was treated for minor injuries.

Another armed robbery occurred on Oct. 31, when an undergraduate was surrounded by somewhere between 10 and 15 juvenile males, who struck and kicked the student, displayed a knife, and demanded the

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NEWS

Racism controversy sparks criticism of JHU attitudes

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Baltimore as a "motherf---king ghetto" and "hiv [sic] pit." The Hopkins Black Student Union also protested one of the party decorations, a store-bought pirate doll suspended from the fraternity house's roof with a noose, claiming that it resembled a simulated lynching.

"More disturbing than the pirate was the invitation that made fun of people with HIV," he said. "That's deplorable, especially at a medically-oriented institution."

Local media sources have strongly focused on the party's most controversial images. But Sean Yoes, a senior reporter at *Afro Newspapers* in Baltimore, said that more than any specific features of the fraternity party, it was Sigma Chi's response to the allegations that rankled.

"What was most offensive, I think, was the boldness of the fraternity — first, in disseminating the invitation, and in the aftermath, in being cavalier about the situation by suggesting that students were being overly-sensitive," Yoes said.

Moore, who now directs the community center of St. Frances Academy in Baltimore, went to Hopkins at a time when the number of black students in his graduating class stood at a scant 23. The black students in his class released a statement at the graduation ceremony regarding the problems they saw — not enough instructors of color, and too few academic courses on African-American culture.

"It's striking to me that the students now are asking for the same kind of things that we asked for in 1974," Moore said.

Less than a week after the BSU held their own protest on N. Charles Street, the Baltimore chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People led a rally to show their support.

Marvin Cheatham, president

of the chapter, has demanded that both the Maryland General Assembly and the Baltimore City Council table all legislation involving the University until administrators make visible changes on campus.

"We'd like to see time targets on the enrollment of African-American students, and time targets and number goals with black professors — we don't just want to say 'bring in diversity training,'" he said.

In Charles Village there is little consensus about whether the party was truly offensive, or whether the students' and University's response has been appropriate.

"I think Charles Village has had a history of being a diverse, inclusive community, so I think that overall people were pretty shocked by what was in the invitation," John Spurrier, vice-president of the Charles Village Civic Association, said.

Now, community members say, the University must tackle the larger issue that has been brought to the forefront by the Sigma Chi controversy — the relationship between a predominantly white University and the black-majority city that houses it.

"What I don't know is how the student body at large feels about Baltimore," Dawna Cobb, a local resident and member of the Charles Village Civic Association, said. "Are they afraid of it? Do they see themselves as separate?"

Yoes thinks that, frankly, they do. "If you look at a picture of Baltimore, Hopkins seems like a city onto itself, a looming sort of metropolis. In that way, it's isolated. And it's viewed as being elitist."

But Cobb and others hope that, with the airing of concerns about racial tensions, things can change. "I hope what comes out of this is more dialogue," she said.

University shifts focus to diversity initiatives

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confirmed the University's position that the party was indeed "offensive" and an "appeal to racial stereotypes."

He unequivocally rejected the claim by some students that racism is not an issue on campus, and that the party was merely an isolated incident that has been exaggerated by both the BSU and local media.

"It doesn't help to debate," he said after the forum. "There's a divide in the way people are treated."

In response to what was possibly the most predominant issue of the night — a back-and-forth over whether the root cause of the controversy was overt, intentional racism or merely ignorance — Brody took a fairly straightforward tack.

"We have a lot of students that are very bright, but very ignorant," he said. "We have to teach people that there's a different way of thinking about these things."

Chapman agreed that arguing over the specifics of the incident was a useless exercise, and that her focus now was on resolving some of the issues BSU has been demonstrating over for almost 40 years.

"What happened is significant, but it was significant in the whole scheme of things, of things that happen and have happened at Hopkins for a long time," she said. "The issues at hand are the issues at hand, and it's the issues the BSU has been fighting for since 1968."

As for the ensuing media spectacle and the backlash it has stirred among some students, Chapman admitted that "the media has misconstrued some things on both sides," but that concentrating on that aspect of the controversy is "missing the



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER

NAACP members and supporters urge university administrators to take immediate action for BSU demands and diversity goals.

entire point."

"I don't want to spend my time addressing other people's opinions on the issue when I think there are primary issues about the incident that are brought forth," she said. "Students don't understand what things people found were offensive. A lot of students don't understand why certain diversity initiatives are important for everyone, and I think for a lot of things they just need to come and ask."

Junior Justin Park, who initially posted an advertisement on Facebook that many claim invoked derogatory racial stereotypes and who has since been expelled from the Sigma Chi fraternity, maintained that his intent was not to inflame racial tensions on campus, and that any lingering

issues with diversity at Hopkins should be resolved independent of the ongoing controversy.

"If it is an issue, I haven't noticed it," he said. "If other people feel it's an issue, it should be addressed." He maintained that the content of the advertisement included "nothing that points to a single cultural or ethnic background," but was nonetheless "apologetic for any offense or hurt" it may have caused.

According to Dorothy Shepard, associate dean of students and lead administrator on both Park's and the fraternity's disciplinary proceedings, a conduct hearing initially scheduled for today was postponed indefinitely due to a request by members of the fraternity.

According to documents provided by Park and sent to him by

University administrators, the conduct hearing will focus on whether or not Park violated any of five specific charges:

- Failing to respect the rights of others and to refrain from behavior that impairs the University's purpose or its reputation in the community;
- Conduct in violation of the University's anti-harassment policy;
- Failure to comply with the directions of a University administrator;
- Conduct or a pattern of conduct that harasses a person or a group
- Intimidation of any person, which results in limiting her/his full access to all aspects of life at the University.

Low-income health clinic to close doors

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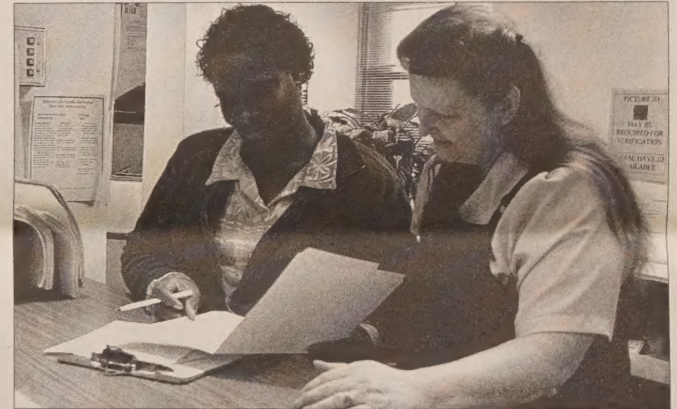
pursuit was unsuccessful, the decision was made for closure.

Blum stressed that a clinic should only be run under a medical institution where patients would more appropriately be offered 24/7 comprehensive care.

Miriam Alexander, the clinic's managing physician, explained that the clinic was part of a "safety net" of low-income health care providers. The overarching goal is to make quality health care accessible to everyone.

"We feel we've played a valuable albeit small role in East Baltimore in helping people get primary care, an unmet need. We feel that we are really providing a service, and we feel that we've been excellent place for students to learn here — including nursing, medical, and undergraduate students. And because several of the clinic's population are Hispanic, [it is] a very good place to train in speaking Spanish, especially for physicians and nurses and nurse practitioners," she said.

There were, however, significant obstacles from the time of its opening. Most of them stemmed from the fact that the clinic, as part of the Urban Health Institute,



ROBIN SHAW/FILE PHOTO

Administrators at the Caroline Street Clinic for the Uninsured discuss future plans.

was under the administration of the School of Public Health. This means that it was not under the direction of a medical institution.

As a result, Blum explained, "There were no mechanisms for referral, laboratory tests were done on a very limited basis, and sub-specialty care was simply not available."

Additionally, the clinic's limited hours made it impossible for patients to receive more comprehensive care, and for many the only other alternative was still the emergency room.

In this transitional period, staff members are working closely with the East Baltimore Medical Center and other facilities to ensure that patients will be taken care of elsewhere.

"We certainly hope it's true that they can go elsewhere. We believe the reason patients come to our

clinic is because others did not meet their specific needs. Many of our patients are almost exclusively adults in East Baltimore, we've been helping them manage chronic conditions that do not have tangible pain or symptoms like high blood pressure but the challenge is that many other clinics have barriers that have made patients feel like they can't access that care," she said.

"For those who can't afford even the minimal level of cost sharing that they would be asked to pay, the Urban Health Institute is committed to underwriting those visits so that literally none of our patients, independent of their financial means, would be denied health care," Blum said.

"The East Baltimore Medical Center has been very gracious about working with us," Alexander said.

Threats to Homewood area security increase

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student's wallet. These criminals were also not apprehended.

One junior was confronted by four juvenile males earlier this month. They implied that they had a weapon and took money from the student. The responders were able to locate and arrest four males, who were positively identified by the victim. It appears that the suspects may have been responsible for some other robberies in the Charles Village community.

Another incident involved an armed robbery that occurred at a 7-11 convenience store which is frequented by Hopkins students. Two men went behind the counter, pointed a handgun at the clerk and demanded cash from the register.

"The 7-11 incident is frightening because we walk there a lot. I'm not going there again without a guy for protection. We can't do anything to change it. You should feel safe going to a 7-

11 that's so close to campus, and if you're not, that's not a good sign," an anonymous sophomore said.

Another armed robbery occurred just one block east of campus, when a Hopkins alumnus was unloading groceries, and two unknown females confronted her, displaying a handgun and demanding her purse. The two women left with her purse and have not been apprehended. The street lights were out at the time.

As could be expected, students have been somewhat upset by these incidents.

Referring to one of the armed robbery incidents, sophomore Keri Calkins commented, "I walk by the area where it happened, so it's really freaky. It happened when there was still light outside, so it would seem there's nothing you can do about it."

As Campus Security emphasizes, most of the off-campus criminal activity occurs at night.

"It adds a new element to the night scene" freshman Zoe Friedman said. "I kind of expected it, but if there is no reason that you are a target, it makes it all a lot worse."

For students who are concerned about burglary, Campus Safety and Security and the Baltimore Police will, upon request, conduct a security survey of their residences.

"We have taken a further initiative of going house to house to the residential areas that were victimized and disseminated alert notifications as well as a preventative safety tips," Skrodzki said.

He added that residents should ensure that all windows and doors are closed and locked at all times.

"Safety and security is a collective responsibility. Each person needs to take an active role in assisting in their own personal safety and crime prevention," he said.

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NEWS

This Week's News in Brief

Nemcova speaks on hope and surviving a crisis

Last Thursday evening, the MSE Symposium hosted internationally renowned supermodel Petra Nemcova. She described her childhood in the Soviet Union State of the Czech Republic. Describing the harsh rule, strict customs and closed society, Petra felt it especially important that the listeners realize they are the lucky few. She also went on to reflect on her memories of one of the greatest tsunami disasters in history.

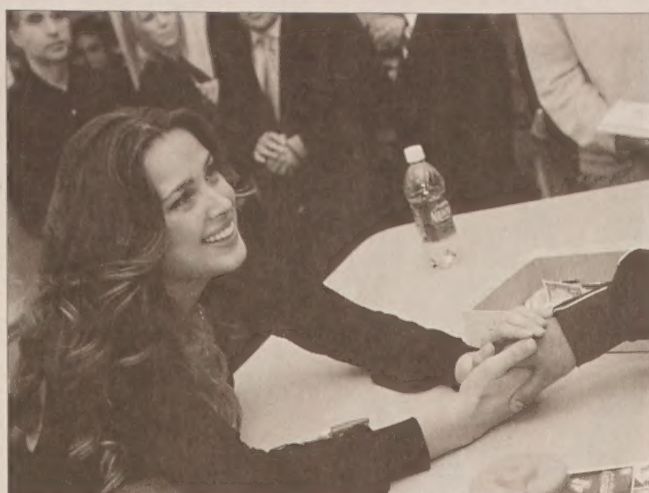
"I see we take it for granted that we have freedom travel, freedom of speech. We have a choice to decide any career we want to take in life. We can't take any road. Living in communism, it gave me a gift of appreciation. Think about and appreciate the gifts you have because sometimes we forget," she said.

Three years ago, Nemcova was at the height of her modeling career and she and her boyfriend were in a committed relationship, "ready to take the next step." But on Dec. 26, 2004, the second largest earthquake ever to be recorded on a seismograph, between 9.1 to 9.3 on the Richter scale, triggered the greatest tsunami disaster in history.

Nemcova and her boyfriend Simon were swept out of the bungalow and into the rapid "black" water. As she described the roof she hung on to, the painful breaking of her pelvis and the screams of dying children replaced by a peaceful calm, her face displayed the stoicism of one who has come to accept sorrow.

"After a while I thought, okay if it's meant to be, it's meant to be, and I will go. That was the most amazing and blissful time or moment in my life. When I let it go, it was the most incredible bliss. Suddenly I saw the blue sky," she said.

This is the type of dichotomy



Petra Nemcova, supermodel and tsunami survivor, interacts with lecture attendees.

Petra displayed throughout her hour long speech. She juxtaposed horror and disaster with calm and peaceful imagery. Nemcova talked about the first day she was withering in pain in a hospital bed next to a man who "had lost everything." His entire family had been swept out and under by the water, and the all he had left was a necklace of the Buddha around his neck. "He took it from the neck and gave it to me. He said, 'now he will protect you' ... He gave the last thing to a complete stranger."

JHU sees record increase in tuition

Undergraduate tuition at Hopkins rose 7.2 percent from \$31,620 to \$33,900 for the 2006-2007 academic year. This marked the highest percentage increase in tuition at Hopkins in the last five years, eclipsing the previous high of 4.9 percent. The rising cost of receiving an education at Hopkins corresponds to a trend of increasing tuition across the nation, where the cost of tuition is rising faster than inflation.

The inflation rate was 3.82 percent from August, 2005 to August, 2006. According to the

College Board, average cost of tuition and fees at four-year public universities rose 6.3 percent during this time period. The increase in tuition at colleges across the nation is partly due to increasing faculty and staff salaries and benefits. Ellen Frishberg, director of Student Financial Services, stated that the rising tuition at Hopkins is related to increasing cost of utilities and security, among other things.

Tuition is rising at a rapid rate, but financial aid is also increasing to meet students' needs at Hopkins. As tuition rose over the last school year, grant aid also increased from \$31.7 million to \$33.5 million. The interesting thing is that for students on aid, their families are paying less and borrowing less, as a percentage of their income, than families paid 10 years ago says Frishberg.

60 percent of undergraduates at Hopkins are on need-based financial aid and 40 percent are on university need-based grant aid. Junior Kirstin Mooney states that Hopkins must continue to attract the best students by maintaining competitive financial aid practices and sometimes choosing affordability and practicality over new dormitories or more expensive meal plans.

— Kaylan Kanakamedala

Harvard moves toward religion requirement

All academic institutions struggle to decide which subjects are essential for students to learn. At Hopkins, there are distribution requirements designed to ensure that students take classes in certain areas, even if they are not going to major in it. At Harvard, students are required to choose from a pool of core classes, spanning a wide variety of areas, including Foreign Cultures, Historical Studies, Literature and Arts, Moral Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning, Science and Social Analysis.

In recent years, Harvard has sought to make its core more relevant to the real world. A six-person Task Force on General Education was created to evaluate the core curriculum, and in October they came out with a preliminary report. The report advocated the creation of seven additional core requirements including Reason and Faith.

"I think 30 years ago people would have said that religion is not something that everyone needs to know," Louis Menand, co-chairman of the Task Force, told *The Wall Street Journal*. "But today, few would disagree that religion is supremely important to modern life."

College administrators say Harvard's move will affect other colleges.

— Kensing Ng

JHU alum chosen as U.S. Capitol police chief

Phillip D. Morse, an alumnus of the Masters of Science in Management program at Hopkins, has been appointed chief of the U.S. Capitol Police Force. He will now head the ever-expanding agency responsible for protect-

ing Congress, the Capitol building and civilians on the Capitol grounds. Since 2001, this force has grown to include 2,300 officers, a 50 percent jump.

Morse, 43, began acting as chief on Oct. 30. This congressional appointment is only Morse's most recent role within the force: He has been with the U.S.C. P. for 21 years. Prior to becoming chief, Morse acted as deputy chief of the Capitol Police's largest unit, the Uniformed Services Bureau.

Morse succeeds the retiring chief Christopher McGaffin at a none too easy time. The U.S.C.P. received some flack for a security breach last month, when a drugged gunman ran through an unguarded door and led officers on a chase up four stories before he was captured.

This escapade is not the first public embarrassment in recent memory for the U.S.C.P. African American members of the Capitol Police brought a lawsuit in 2001 alleging racist practices within the agency, and another lawsuit was threatened in 2003 for alleged harassment of those bringing the 2001 class action suit.

Morse's training for the Master of Science from Hopkins can be expected to help combat the vestiges of this problem: the Hopkins program in the Field of Public Safety works specifically to promote the successful management of diversity and differences.

— Sasha Rousseau

Ablow gains nat'l prominence

Keith R. Ablow, Johns Hopkins Medical School Alumnus ('87), psychologist and author, has begun gaining considerable national attention. Ablow published a *New York Times* Best-Seller last year, "Inside the Mind of Scott Peterson," where Ablow analyzed and theorized on the mental state of murderer Scott Peterson. The Scott Peterson murder case was one of the most highly publicized murder cases — Peterson brutally murdered his pregnant wife, seemingly without reason. Ablow's book looked into the mind of Scott Peterson and offered reasoning behind his actions.

After the success of this book, Keith Ablow has gone on to start a television series, similar to that of Dr. Phil's. *The Dr. Keith Ablow Show* invites people to discuss real-life problems, and helps suggest to viewers solutions to these problems. For instance, Ablow has had episodes on Father-Daughter Relationships, Teen Parents, The Aftermath of School Shootings, and Addiction. Ablow brings to the show his twenty-years of experience as a psychologist, along with his personal experiences as an author, husband and father. The hour-long daily show debuted last month, and so far has been a nation-wide success.

— Laura Perazzoli

ERRATA

In the Nov. 2 issue, the article "'Knowledge' campaign sets \$3.2 billion goal" should have stated that the "Knowledge for the World" Campaign received donations, and not the Baltimore Museum of Art.

In the Nov. 2 issue, the editorial "Sigma Chi's long night" should have specified that bullet hole decorations were allegedly, and not actually, present at the Sigma Chi Halloween party.

The *News-Letter* regrets these errors.

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NEWS

HERU stages simulated mass casualty incident

By ANUM AZAM
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Ambulances, fire department vehicles and stretchers are an undesirable sight at any university, but last Friday night, they served as tools of the trade for the Hopkins Emergency Response Unit (HERU).

The Hopkins Emergency Response Organization (HERO), under which HERU operates, held the annual simulation of a mass casualty incident (MCI) on the Beach as a training exercise for current HERU members. HERU is a collegiate Emergency Medical Service (EMS) that responds to medical emergencies on the Homewood campus, according to the HERO Web site.

"This is the MCI drill. We hold one every year because we want to make sure that HERU is prepared to deal with any situation," Jillian Richmond, the HERO training officer who organized and oversaw the drill, said.

In order to simulate the MCI, dozens of students volunteered to be "victims" in a mock car accident. The accident involved a drunken student driving a Hopkins van into a number of pedestrians outside of the MSE Library, resulting in various injuries at various levels of seriousness.

"A mass casualty incident is a disaster in which many people die at the same time, such as a building falling down, a shooting or something of that nature. When an MCI occurs, HERO is responsible for dealing with the aftermath," junior Omair Javed, a HERU member who was involved with this year's drill, said.

"Hopkins doesn't know if it can deal with an MCI in case something like this happens," Franca Kraenzlin, a junior who volunteered to be a victim, said.

The HERU members involved were not notified about the time or place of the MCI to further simulate the potential reality of the situation.

"When the MCI occurs,

HERU's first line is called in. Then, they call in the second line. There are about nine to 12 people out there treating patients and handling multiple injuries," Javed said.

Hopkins Security called for "the Hopkins ER Unit," describing the nature of the situation and the number of victims.

HERU members then ran into the chaotic scene and quickly assessed the situation, separating the "green light" victims from the "yellow" and "red" light victims, grouped according to the seriousness of the injuries and dealt with each victim accordingly.

The drill was designed to be as realistic as possible, so all of the equipment that the unit utilized was in stock, the victims were marked with very realistic makeup according to their injuries, and the Baltimore City Fire Department (BCFD) was summoned.

"We need to know that we can handle it ourselves with the protocols that we have in place. So we use the phone tree to activate the special response team, which is always on call in case a situation like this occurs," Richmond said.

HERU would work in conjunction with the BCFD and Johns Hopkins Safety and Security if an MCI were to occur, he said.

"[Hopkins] Security provides the operational oversight and makes sure that things are running smoothly," and that the Fire Department is there to deal with the psychological traumas that victims may face, Richmond added.

Bruce Miller, a training officer and member of Hopkins Safety and Security, explained that his job is to be available for HERU for organizational purposes at the site of the accident.

After all of the victims had been patched up according to their specific injuries, which ranged from mild cuts and bruises to bone fractures to death, Richmond held a Critical Incident Stress Debriefing in the basement of Shriver Hall to decide what went well and the areas in which HERU can improve.

Hopkins hosts community-building event

By ALEXANDRA WATSON
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

A community relations-building event was hosted by the University last Saturday in an effort to help promote better relations with citizens living in the neighboring Charles Village area. Despite a low turnout, administrators claim the event is a first step toward eventually having multiple annual community events to engage neighboring citizens with the University.

Attendance at the event was not as large as organizers had aimed.

"The turnout for the football game was lower than I had hoped for, in terms of the number of persons from the target elementary/middle schools," Salem Reiner, director of the Office of Community Affairs and organizer of the event, said.

Reiner did not have a number as to how many of these people attended. Overall, however, he felt the event was a success.

Though no further events are currently planned, Hopkins encourages its neighbors to attend any and all JHU events that are open to the public.

The event was sponsored by the Homewood Student Affairs, the JHU Athletics Department and the JHU Office of Community Affairs. In the main activity, the Hopkins Blue Jays played the Hampden-Sydney Tigers in a football game on the Homewood field.

The three University departments hosting the event invited affiliates from six nearby elementary and middle schools to attend the game and cheer for the Hopkins Blue Jays in an attempt to bolster relations between Hopkins and the surrounding community.

"This event is part of a series of steps that the University has been and will be taking to strengthen relations between JHU and our surrounding neighbors," Reiner said.

According to Reiner, no specific incident involving the university and the surrounding Baltimore community prompted the school to host the event.

However, Hopkins has always



SHIV GHANDI/NEWS-LETTER

In an attempt to bolster community relations, the Office of Community Affairs invited elementary students to a sporting event.

been interested in encouraging a peaceful and supportive coexistence between the University and the surrounding citizens. This particular event was innovative in that, as Reiner said, "Events such as this one are a somewhat new approach, in that there is more of a direct and visible engagement with the community. At present, however, no further events have been planned.

"[We would eventually] like to see four to five planned events per year to which the broader local community is invited," Reiner said.

Tom Calder, director of athletics and recreation for the University, said that he thought the event served not only as a way of bolstering community relations, but also as a way of recruiting Baltimore area students to the school.

"Bringing middle school and high school students and their administration to our campus helps both Johns Hopkins and

these schools develop a relationship that will hopefully encourage some of these students to attend Johns Hopkins," he said.

Calder further noted that those students who might become interested in the University thanks to increased community relations might also be inspired to play a sport for the school someday.

Generally, the event was intended to improve the level of interaction between Hopkins and surrounding non-Hopkins "affiliates." According to Reiner, "The stronger the relations are between JHU and our neighbors, the more vested each group becomes in the welfare of the other and the community as a whole."

Reiner further suggested that sponsoring attendance to a football game would allow for a growth of regional pride on the part of the community in Hopkins' athletics and academics. The atmosphere of the football game was intended to allow an

intermingling of area guests and Hopkins associates, thus encouraging a greater understanding between Hopkins and the community at large.

The football game itself was also intended to be an event that students in elementary, middle, high school and college could all relate to; the location was convenient given that a football game contributes, by its very nature, an easily accessible venue that can accommodate any number of event patrons.

It was further hoped that the event would, "encourage community participation in the many other Homewood-based events that are open to the public," Calder said, speaking of the appropriateness of using a football game as the focus of building community relations. "Having these people attend a varsity athletics event is a good way of getting people on our campus who might not come if it were not for an event that interests them."

Report calls for political diversity

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
the humanities and social sciences and less so in areas such as business and the sciences although the report maintains that overall, the majority of faculty fails to represent a representative cross-section of American political and social views. The report suggests that recruitment, hiring and tenure programs are failing to diversify faculty and calls for an elimination of political ideology considerations if and where they exist in such programs.

"It is indisputable that there are liberal and Democratic tendencies among the vast majority of faculty at Hopkins. It would be generally healthier [for the university] if there was more of a mix in political views among faculty," Stephen R. David, director of the International Studies Program, said.

However, David stressed that liberal biases on the teaching level are not a problem at Hopkins and suggested that the reason behind the high majority of liberal political views is due to the fact that academia as an institution has traditionally attracted liberal thought.

A uniformity in political views among faculty leads to an ideologically stagnant atmosphere on college and university campuses. Significant numbers of students in universities across the country were found to have experienced personal political views permeating lessons and affecting the way in which subject matter was presented in the classroom. The report denounces these biases as stifling the educational system and atmosphere on campuses nationwide.

Gabrielle Spiegel, dean of faculty of the School Arts and Sciences, disagreed with the report's suggestion that hiring and tenure practices are at fault.



SARAH SABSHON/NEWS-LETTER

The report claims that history professors, like Toby Ditz, are predominantly liberal.

"I can tell you that political views are never considered in the hiring of faculty or consideration of tenure, since for the most part we do not know what a given faculty member's political views are, never ask about them, and hire faculty for their expertise in subject matter. The principal commitment of a research university like Johns Hopkins is to the free and open exchange of ideas, including ideas one may dislike," she said.

Adam Falk, dean of the school of Arts and Sciences, voiced agreement with the Spiegel's sentiment. "[Hopkins] fosters an environment in which students and faculty can speak out on any issue, in the appropriate manner, without fear or intimidation. Hopkins faculty bring diversity in voting patterns and views of the day," he said.

Students' views on this issue are varied. Several Hopkins students interviewed felt that liberal biases do exist among faculty at Hopkins but do not feel that they interfere with their education.

"Political bias is less present at Hopkins than at other universities, probably due to the academic disposition of the University. In my experience, students are free to voice their opinions and to be open-minded in the classroom and on campus," Andrew Brandel, a sophomore majoring in political science, said.

Several other students expressed similar views. Students voiced disagreement with the report's conclusion that many

students on university campuses feel reluctant to speak against popular views in the classroom.

The report recommends that "any and all solutions [to this problem] ... must be pro-active rather than reactive." It calls for universities to create faculties, and thereby environments, on campus with no overwhelming political or social views and to promote diversity in views so as to provide students with a wide range of new ideas. This diversity, the report maintains, is what brings challenge, debate and revision to ideas, a process so fundamental not only to University life but to academic and intellectual life as well.

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november 8 - 18

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november 8 - 18

multiculturalgreekblockshow

shriver auditorium

watch members of several multicultural greek organizations perform

thursday, november 16, 7-9 p.m.



"branching out from our roots"

SCIENCE

Maryland geophysicist builds magnetic model of the Earth

By JONATHAN PAN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Scientists at the University of Maryland are constructing a 26 thousand-pound metal sphere that they hope will accurately simulate Earth's magnetic field. Once completed, the model will be the largest of its kind.

Earth's magnetic field is fickle and poorly understood. The magnetic pole in Canada wanders on a yearly basis, and from time to time the entire magnetic field of the Earth switches direction.

Geological records indicate that Earth's magnetic field has reversed hundreds of times. However, the reversals do not occur at regular time intervals, making it impossible to predict when the next one will occur.

The magnetic field creates a bubble called the magnetosphere that protects Earth from charged particles streaming from the sun. These particles are only able to enter the atmosphere at the poles, which is why auroras are only visible there.

During a field reversal, the strength of the magnetosphere could weaken, allowing harmful energetic particles to reach Earth's surface.

The new model of Earth is being built by Daniel Lathrop, a geophysicist at the University of Maryland. He hopes an accurate model of Earth's magnetic field will help scientists understand why the field changes and when the next reversal will occur.

Scientists believe Earth's magnetic field is generated by the movement of liquid metal in its outer core. The exact movement of the liquid is so intricate that a computer simulation would be too complex for current computers, which is why scientists are building physical models.

At three meters in diameter, Lathrop's model will be the larg-

est simulation to date, which should make it the most Earth-like. The metallic sphere looks like Winnie the Pooh's honey pot, but in place of honey Lathrop will be filling his model with liquid sodium which is a powerful conductor of electricity and magnetism.

The sodium is also very explosive, which is why the model is shielded on all sides by giant metallic sheets and the walls are covered with signs that read "Dangerous When Wet." If the sodium comes in contact with water, the result would be "flaming, burning sodium globs" Lathrop said.

The current model is Lathrop's third. His previous two models were smaller in size and both failed to create magnetic fields. Lathrop is optimistic that the larger model will create a self-sustaining magnetic field.

Earth's magnetism is essential to many animal species, including sea turtles and some birds, as well as an integral component of artificial systems ranging from compasses to airplanes.

Kenneth Lohmann, a professor at the University of North Carolina, does research on the mechanisms of animal migration. He believes that Earth's magnetic reversal will probably occur at such a slow rate that animals will be able to reorient themselves correctly using physical cues.

Still, Lohmann maintains that an accurate model of the Earth's magnetic field would help scientists "gain insight into the kinds of changes animals had to cope with during their evolutionary history."

Lathrop plans to finish construction of the newest model within a year. Afterwards the procedure is straightforward: "spin it like a bat out of hell and try to understand what the system is doing."

Gene therapy has promise, pitfalls for society

The ability to easily manipulate the human genetic code is raising a host of questions about the fair use of the technique. RNA interference, or RNAi, is a mechanism shared by many plants and animals that aids gene regulation and protection from viral infection.

Andrew Fire, an adjunct professor of biology at Hopkins, shared the 2006 Nobel Prize in Medicine or Physiology for the discovery of RNAi.

Scientists have discovered how to take advantage of a cell's natural RNAi capabilities. By introducing an engineered RNA molecule into the cell, scientists can silence any gene they want simply by altering the sequence of the molecule they develop.

This is a powerful new tool for geneticists because it has the potential to help them characterize the human genome. Although the sequence of the human genome has been known for a few years, the function of most specific genes is still a mystery.

RNAi will allow researchers to sequentially knock out genes from the genome to determine their individual functions.

The implications of understanding the function and location of each gene in the human genome compel us to think of possible impacts this research could have on society.

Clinically, knowing the function of specific genes could bring about new and innovative treatments in gene therapy. If scientists know what specific genes are involved in a genetic disease or disorder, then treatment could be designed to efficiently target the problem at the level of DNA.

Gene therapy has already been investigated in the treatment of sickle cell anemia and in vein grafts. A major barrier in the development of these therapies is that research must be approached from two angles: first to develop



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Ethan Hawke's character in the 1997 movie *Gattaca* is preordained to live a second-class life because of perceived flaws in his genetic code.

the treatment, and then to deliver it safely to a living person.

Although not yet common, gene therapy will undoubtedly be a significant addition to the medical arsenal because it will allow doctors to treat chronic genetic problems directly, instead of simply treating their symptoms as they often must do today.

But the treatment of medically recognized illnesses is not the only potential application of RNAi and related gene therapy techniques.

One important application to consider is "cosmetic" gene therapy. If the genes involved in eye color, hair color or other traits are understood, doctors could conceivably offer parents the option to select the traits they find at-

tractive for their children.

To some people, cosmetic trait selection represents a harmless and perhaps even desirable luxury. Skeptics argue that the cost of these therapies would lead to a sort of genetic aristocracy, in which only wealthy individuals can afford to look a certain way.

Although some synthetic selections might be considered harmless, some, like melanin expression or sex, could produce larger problems when it comes to socioeconomic issues.

The ability to control the gender or racial characteristics of an embryo might have profound implications for many types of discrimination experienced today.

Perhaps a future society in

which the selection of these sorts of traits is commonplace would no longer discriminate on the basis of biological traits.

At the same time, the type of control parents would have over the appearance of their children could be used to take advantage of or disrupt existing societal systems such as affirmative action.

RNAi will help us to understand the mysteries of our DNA and will prove useful in many future applications, both clinical and perhaps cosmetic, some more fantastic than others.

Although the real impact of RNAi and gene therapy on our society and its institutions cannot be known today, the possibilities are certainly worth considering as research progresses.

—Michael Morris is the director of internal affairs for the JHU chapter of The Triple Helix: The International Journal of Science, Society, and Law.

Michael Morris
Student Science @ JHU

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9:00am-4:00pm

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Tour battlefields, Little Round Top, and Cemetery Ridge. Understand the courage, hardships and determination of these soldiers. Prof. John Matsui will accompany this tour and be available for questions and answers regarding this period of time.

Cost: \$10.00

Saturday, November 11

Visionary Arts Museum

1:30pm -4:00pm

The American Visionary Museum is located in Federal Hill on Baltimore's Inner Harbor. "Visionary art as defined for the purposes of the American Visionary Art Museum refers to art produced by self-taught individuals, usually without formal training, whose works arise from an innate personal vision that reveals foremost in the creative act itself."

Cost: \$5.00

Wednesday, January 17

New York City

7:00 am-11pm

Enjoy a day in the "Big Apple" visiting the Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art, Museum of Modern Art, Museum of Natural History or a Broadway show. Price includes roundtrip motor coach to and from New York City. You are responsible for the entrance fee to any museums or shows.

Cost: \$25.00

Saturday, March 4

Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture

1:30pm-4:00pm

This exciting new museum to Baltimore celebrates the many accomplishments of Maryland African Americans. "Museum leaders hope it will be a place to remember struggles, celebrate accomplishments, and serve as a beacon of pride, hope, and inspiration for all people."

Cost: \$5.00

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Continuation of 110.415, Honors Analysis I.
We develop the Lebesgue theory of integration, which enables us to apply the integral to many functions that were previously off-limits. The idea that functions are just like vectors in an (infinite-dimensional) vector space will be explored in detail. The course concludes with a overview of Fourier series, highlighting as many of the above techniques as possible.

Introduction to Topology 110.413

Topology is visual analysis
Topology is geometry without measurement
Topology is the algebra of shape
This course is a 1-semester introduction to point-set and basic algebraic topology. Topics include topological spaces, connectedness, compactness, quotient spaces, metric spaces, function spaces. An introduction to algebraic topology: covering spaces, the fundamental group, and other topics as time permits.
Prerequisite: Calculus III.



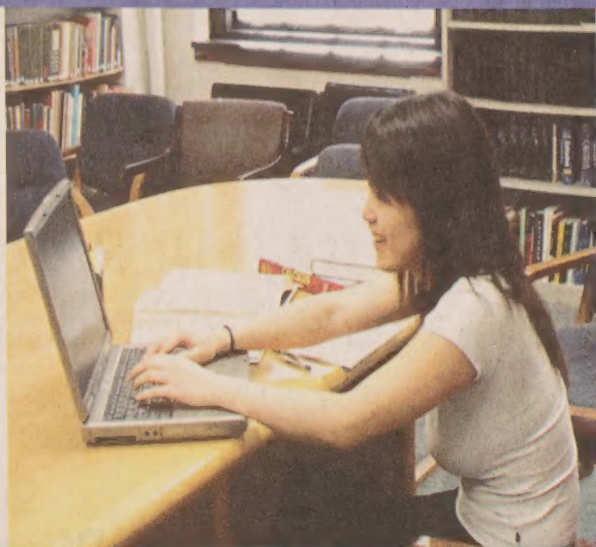
Lie Groups for Undergraduates 110.423

This course is an introduction to Lie Groups and their representations at the upper undergraduate level. It will cover basic Lie Groups such as $SU(2)$, $U(n)$, the Euclidean Motion Group and Lorentz Group. This course is useful for students who want a working knowledge of group representations. We will also discuss some aspects of the role of symmetry groups in particle physics such as some of the formal aspects of the electroweak and the strong interactions. A good reference is the book *Lie Algebras in Particle Physics* by Howard Georgi. Prior knowledge of group theory would be helpful.

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110.421**

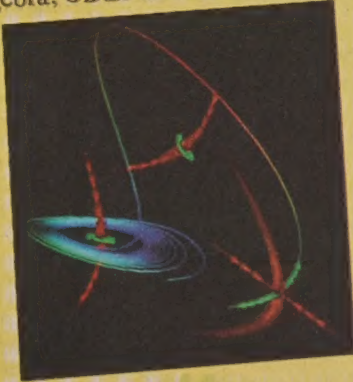
Ever wonder why weather predictions are always so lousy?

Why its hard to balance a stick on end?

Why the solar system is still here after so many years?

Dynamical Systems is the study of the general properties and behavior of time dependent systems of equations. Using a combination of calculus, linear algebra, ODEs and a bit of analysis (topology), we will survey the basic elements of the field, from classical mechanics and iterated maps to recent developments in the field.

Only vector calculus, linear algebra, and ODEs are necessary for this course.



**PDE for
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110.417**

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This course will cover the basics: characteristics, classification of second order equations, well-posed problems, existence and uniqueness, and the big three mentioned above, along with much else along the way, including the Cauchy Problem, Green's functions and Poisson's Formula.

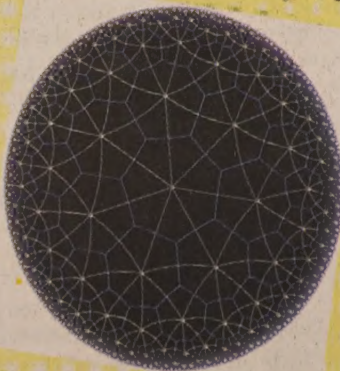
Calculus III is required for this course. Real Analysis (110.405) is also recommended.

**Non-Euclidean
Geometry
110.328**

Once you understand that the world is not flat, geometry suddenly gets much more interesting.

This course is an introduction to the three plane geometries: spherical, Euclidean (flat), and hyperbolic (see picture).

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THE JOHNS HOPKINS
NEWS-LETTER
PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

EDITORIAL

A student-driven solution

For the most part, furor regarding the Sigma Chi Halloween party has abated over the last week. But during that time, calls for reform have been continued throughout the University. Some want educational programs and sensitivity training, others restrictions on speech or severe punishment. None of these, however, are likely to produce a more welcoming community. Increasing the number of minority faculty is an admirable goal, but it is the solution to another problem — not the one revealed on Halloween. This is a student predicament and will not be solved with directives from Garland Hall.

Many students and community members seem to think the administration possesses some magic potion that will cure our ills. President Brody explained the trouble succinctly on Monday when he addressed a forum organized to discuss the party and its aftermath: “We have a lot of students that are very bright, but also very ignorant.” This ignorance cannot be overcome with education, paradoxical though that may sound. The members of Sigma Chi responsible for “Halloween in the Hood” know that racism exists. They know that blacks have been grossly mistreated throughout American history. Their understanding of these topics may not be evolved by any means, but we suspect that they are not unaware of the plight faced by African-Americans; indeed, they are most likely sympathetic to it.

What they are unaware of, however, are the boundaries of acceptable conduct. The University promotes a variety of guidelines intended to ensure tolerance, but most students encounter them only as freshmen and soon forget those vital instructions. The University can attempt to establish those boundaries more firmly, but it is through interpersonal relationships that we internalize the modes of social conduct that govern our lives. It is undeniable that Hopkins is fraught with informal segregation. The reasons for this are myriad and understandable. The blame lies with all students. We appear collectively incapable of overcoming racial barriers in our friendships.

Perhaps if the brothers of Sigma Chi were more fully implicated in the lives of their fellow students in the black community they would have realized that what was intended as a joke would not be appreciated as such. Through gaffs and laughs with understanding friends we learn where amusement turns to bad taste and offense. The members of Sigma Chi clearly lacked that understanding — as do many of us at Hopkins.

The University can’t decide who our friends are, and attempts to increase the diversity of small groups quickly degenerate into tokenism. Among the lessons of the Sigma Chi controversy is the following: The quality of the Hopkins student community is in the hands of its members. Change will not come from on high, be it the administration, the national chapter of Sigma Chi or the NAACP. Real diversity emerges from voluntary, mutually edifying interaction. In other words, this one’s on us.

Prognosis: negligence

The closure of the Caroline Street Clinic in East Baltimore is not just disappointing for the neighborhood it has served for the past two years, but it also signals an irony of the bitterest sort for an institution that has built its reputation on excellence in medicine. Hopkins may have world-class facilities in the hospital and some of the best health care professionals around for the most difficult-to-treat ailments, but when it comes to providing basic care to the neediest in its own backyard, the institution has failed to live up to its billing.

After two years of providing free medical services to uninsured patients, the Caroline Street Clinic has fallen victim to infrastructure problems and funding issues within the University that have nothing to do with the program’s goal of aiding the under-served. The University has a responsibility to the Baltimore community to restore the clinic’s free services and keep it in operation. Indeed, the University ought to consider providing such care its moral obligation. If Hopkins does not support the downtrodden of Baltimore, who will? The city is riven with large-scale health concerns, a fact that should be nothing short of embarrassing for one of the world’s top health care institutions.

The problems that have plagued the clinic seem to be preventable when taking into consideration the vast infrastructure of Hopkins medicine. For one, the clinic should operate under the auspices of the hospital rather than the School of Public Health, as has hitherto been the case. It’s ludicrous to think that a clinic established by Hopkins must fight to gain access to laboratory testing, specialty care and referral systems. And with the number of doctors and doctors-in-training who are itching for experience at Hopkins, the clinic should not have to suffer from understaffing or limited operating hours. The University and the hospital should encourage its doctors and medical students to serve the communities closest to them — this not only improves the quality of the medical practitioners, but also brings the University closer to Baltimore.

But the project of providing a free urban clinic is, of course, much more than a public relations stunt, even for a University that needs to improve its local image. The people who will suffer most from the clinic’s closure are those who have few other medical resources — they are uninsured and often living in poverty, battling against chronic health problems that are best treated on a long-term basis.

The increasingly prohibitive cost of health care is a nationwide problem that the Hopkins medical institution should put resources toward fighting. Closing a free clinic, without making amends to the community it is abandoning, is definitely a move in the wrong direction.

Crying “liberal!”

Higher learning institutions are accused of liberal bias about as often as the media, and just as erroneously. Sure, many professors have viewpoints that fall left-of-center, but the notion of vehement, ideological professors proselytizing their students with leftist ideas in the classroom is simply false.

But lo and behold, a study from the Institute for Jewish and Community Research has supposedly legitimized the long-held belief in the campus liberal bias, going one step further by declaring the lack of diversity of ideas harmful to academia. Sounds serious, no?

Hardly. The Institute’s definition of liberal bias is preposterous. They claim a college is liberally biased if it exhibits “criticism of many American foreign and domestic policies, propensity to blame America for world problems, a tendency to strongly support international institutions such as the United Nations, strong opposition to American unilateralism, criticism of big business [and] skepticism about capitalism’s ability to help address poverty in developing nations.”

These criteria sound like a conservative caricature of liberal ideals. Moreover, if Tuesday’s election is any indication, plenty of conservatives have their own criticism of American foreign and domestic policies. Perhaps they, too, are liberally biased. According to the Institute, you’re liberally biased if you get your news from anywhere other than White House press releases.

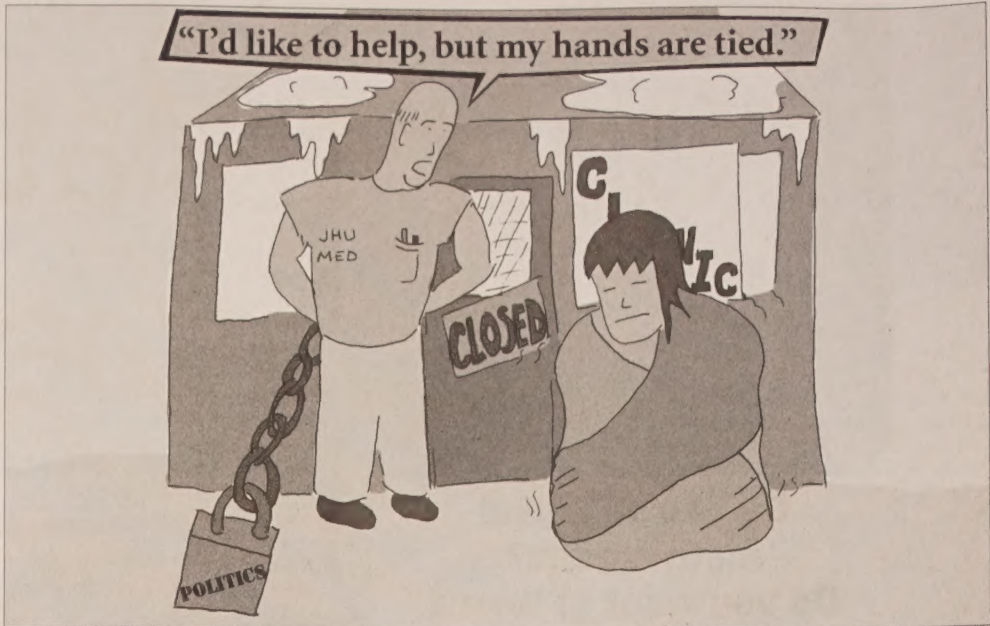
In fact, university professors should be encouraged to promote such criticism of American policy. Academia serves as an influential check against bad governance and evaluates politics under a lens that most of us are simply not capable of wielding. Sometimes academicians are the only force left opposing inept decisions in the halls of government. Need anyone be reminded of the weeks and months before the Iraq War when Congress and the media lay prostrate before the executive. Yet there was vigorous debate within academia. If only those professors’ views were granted greater consideration at the time.

If we allow for an instant that this supposedly “damaging bias” exists, then we must ask, what is the solution? Should universities recruit professors who preach conservative ideals in the classroom, thereby propagandizing students back to the middle? Obviously not.

The bottom line is that a professor’s political slant should not affect his or her teaching. Most professors have ascended to the highest levels of academia by being thoughtful, considering diverse viewpoints and arriving at positions based on rigorous study, not ideology. Even if professors are liberal, it is of no matter so long as their political leanings are given no place in the classroom. They are teachers, not opinions columnists; their job is to provide students with the tools to make their own decisions, not make the decisions for them. Hopkins professors certainly seem to respect that boundary.

Perhaps the Institute for Jewish and Community Research needs to give students a little more credit. We know the difference between even-handed information and preaching. We make our own decisions, and we do so thoughtfully. So if making those decisions requires a critical analysis of American policy and that constitutes left-wing leanings, then maybe we really are liberally biased. And happily so.

Matt Hansen



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editorial misses the mark

I am writing in response to the editorial “Sigma Chi’s Long Night” [Nov. 2, 2006] published in the *News-Letter*. I am a Hopkins graduate student and a high school math teacher in southwest Baltimore for the Baltimore City Public School System. While reading about the Sigma Chi party in the *News-Letter*, I was a little surprised by the positions the editorial board took in regards to this story. I want to focus, however, on what I see as the most important misconception in the editorial.

The *News-Letter* criticized the BSU for raising awareness without promoting solutions. Apparently, the editors feel that it is only the responsibility of the BSU to solve the problem of racism at Hopkins. It’s hard to enough to be a Hopkins student without the burden of going around teaching others how not to be racist, and this burden does not fall only on the shoulders of African-American students; engaging in dialogue and fighting racism in any form is the responsibility of all people.

Similarly, the editors asked the BSU to “channel energies” towards some racist wall hangings at Nolan’s. What is more appalling than these wall hangings, however, is the *News-Letter* asking the BSU to protest them before they have turned a critical eye on themselves to ask why they have not used their public venue to call for a protest of their

own? If you see an injustice, it is your duty to speak out against it whether or not the injustice harms you personally.

Simon Birenbaum
Graduate Student

Students should protest Iraq war

I initially sympathized with “Problems? Don’t blame gen-Y” by Marc Goldwein [Oct. 19, 2006]. Yes, it would be unfair to blame students for the world’s problems. But then he supported the right-wing Newt Gingrich and his critique of baby boomers.

I doubt very much that Ralph Nader and Harry Belafonte blamed the world’s problems on students. These progressive activists are much too astute. I suspect they were trying to get students more involved in dealing with the mess created by power-brokers across the continents.

And rightfully so, Nader and Belafonte spoke about the quagmire in Iraq. The front page of the same *News-Letter* highlighted the Hopkins study which claimed 650,000 civilian deaths in Iraq. While I recognize that students are quite busy with their studies, I would urge them to see if they can find some time in their schedules to protest the war and the war-makers who created this debacle.

Serious scholars and analysts are recognizing the Bush administration may be the worst in U.S. history. Students should also consider that the Iraq War will cost more than \$2 trillion, a debt to be paid principally by future generations.

As a Baltimore peace activist, I thank all students and faculty that have participated in protests against this awful war. I have a suspicion, though, that many members of the Hopkins community remain silent in this time of deceit.

Max Obuszewski
American Friends Service
Committee

LETTERS POLICY

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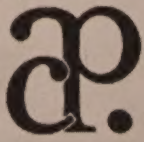
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OPINIONS

With the exception of editorials, the opinions expressed here are those of the contributors. They are not necessarily those of The Johns Hopkins News-Letter.

A letter from Sigma Chi

By LARS TRAUTMAN

On behalf of the brothers of the Hopkins chapter of the Sigma Chi Fraternity, I would like to address some of the controversy surrounding our annual Halloween party. We are extremely sorry that the brother in charge of social events did not ensure that the language or decorations involved in the party or its promotion could not be misconstrued. Even more disturbing, the chapter as a whole neglected to examine more closely this former brother's invitation.

We would like to stress that there was never any intent to offend anyone, on our part or that of the former brother, and we would like to apologize to all who were hurt. It is our sincere hope that the community, especially our fellow students, accept our apology and recognize our genuine desire to aid in the healing process.

The JHU chapter of Sigma Chi, from its inception, has prided itself on the diversity of its membership in terms of temperaments, talents and convictions, as well as races, creeds and ethnicities. Since its founding two and a half years ago, Sigma Chi has initiated 27 non-white members and 40 white members, a ratio nearly identical to the student body as a whole.

Our members are very much a part of the community and strive to make it better by participating in community outreach programs. These include the Tutorial Project and Balticorps, which directly aid inner-city youth. Brothers have also been active in Habitat for Humanity, building homes for the community and raising money for development projects.

This incident, as well as the questionable actions and methods of the Black Student Union

Lars Trautman is a senior political science and economics major from Concord, Mass. He is the Vice President of Sigma Chi.

(BSU) and the administration, have affected the chapter deeply. The fraternity has been wracked with the expulsion of a close friend and brother, the scrutiny of the media and a determined attack on our reputation. While much of the focus has been placed on the injury to the BSU and others, the impact on the Fraternity has been largely ignored. Post-Halloween meetings and phone calls with deans, directors, lawyers, alumni and others have made it nearly impossible for any of the leaders of the fraternity to go to even a fraction of our classes, let alone glance at homework.

The anxiety about academics, however, is secondary to the emotional turbulence surrounding the fraternity. National, allegations of racism have been enormously damaging. Brothers have seen family and friends question their integrity, while strangers have outright denied it and harassed them.

The behavior of the BSU throughout this incident has been disingenuous. Their actions not only consumed the lives of 27 men, but also endangered those of us residing in the fraternity house, compelling us to accept an offer of 24/7 surveillance by Hopkins security outside the house as well as temporary on-campus housing. The BSU has also shown little concern for many of the pertinent facts. The alleged "gunshot noises" were fireworks, completely unrelated to the party, while the "bullet-hole decorations" were presumably a reference to a preexisting collection of fist-holes, bottle-holes and so forth left by partygoers — thank you, class of '10.

I am dismayed that the BSU, an organization that in recent weeks has talked with so much conviction about diversity, would seek to attack one of the most diverse organizations on campus. It calls into question the BSU's true intent: is it to unite the campus around the issues of diversity and inclusion, or is it

to bask in the spotlight? Sigma Chi, despite how overwhelmed its brothers have been, has done everything it can to help our community heal. We have purposely tried to shrug off the attention, hoping to divert it to the greater issue of diversity. I know that many of my peers recognize Sigma Chi's overwhelmingly positive contributions, however, a select few have worked, in a concerted effort, to undermine our credibility and create antagonism and division on campus. I call on my fellow students to stand against this kind of behavior that knowingly and purposely drives us apart.

It is also disappointing that the University would be so frightened as to proclaim us guilty until proven innocent, ignoring the fundamental tenets of impartial research in which it takes such pride. During our first meeting, administration officials thrust black-and-white images of 1850s lynchings in my face, and insisted my actions could not constitute anything but blatant racism. I hope that in our Conduct Board hearing today we will receive a more rational and fair judgment.

By CHRISTINA CHAPMAN

"It is wisdom that the University promotes ... a power to distinguish the useless, the false, and the fragile from the good, the true and the lasting."

Written proudly on the walls of Gilman hall — the centerpiece of the campus and a symbol for Hopkins' prowess — are these words of Daniel Coit Gilman, the University's founder and first President. This quote speaks of wisdom, represented by all the understanding this University promotes, and the ability to judge the just and true, from the false and artificial.

It suggests that the institution is dedicated to inhibiting ignorance by its advancement of wisdom. If this quote is an embodiment of the University's ideology, how is it that ignorance is allowed to propagate at this institution?

On Monday, Oct. 30, 2006, members of the Black Student Union took a stand against the ignorance that infiltrates Hopkins. After many occasions of bearing the pain of discrimination, isolation and prejudice, students, faculty, staff and community members came together to voice their concerns to the campus and Baltimore communities so that others could no longer claim to be ignorant to the injustices that take place at this institution.

On Saturday, Sept. 28, 2006 Sigma Chi Fraternity held a

party entitled "Halloween in the Hood." The facebook invitation to the party, named Johnny Cochran the host and referred to Baltimore as the "mother f—ing ghetto" and "the hiv pit." Additionally, the fraternity used a rope noose to hang a skeleton from their house.

People of a range of races and ethnicities found the invitation and lynching scene racist, offensive and hurtful. Such observations and feelings are compounded by the knowledge of the history of the brutal lynchings of blacks that took place in America.

Among other elements, the aforementioned facts represent the true concerns of many who were hurt and offended. As can be expected, the media has distorted the true issues. I encourage you to both look at the facts of the event and speak to those who were affected instead of focusing issues such as those revolving around costumes that were worn at the party, and whether or not Sigma Chi is a "white" fraternity. There were many offensive statements in the invitation alone. Additionally, the ethnic and racial "diversity" of any group in no way negates their ability to produce something that is racist and offensive.

Furthermore, many are attempting to attribute the invitation to an individual. At the Black Student Union meeting on Sunday Oct. 29, members of the organization stated that they "stood by their brother one hundred percent."

For many at Hopkins, however, this incident was only one of myriad incidences of racism, discrimination and insensitivity that have taken place at this institution over the years. Since 1968, members of the Black Student Union have filed complaints and detailed initiatives with the hope of improving the campus climate. Students have demanded more black faculty, a department in Africana Studies that grants Ph.D.s and a multicultural student center.

Many understand that such demands would be of benefit to the entire campus community, as they will help dispel the ignorance that many claim in regard to racism and would enforce the statement that discriminatory practices will not be tolerated at Hopkins.

It is now 2006. Black students and faculty continue to be greatly underrepresented. While many minority groups are underrepresented at institutions across the country, Hopkins falls far behind peer institutions, particularly with regards to the numbers of black faculty. Though progress is being made in this area, it is not happening quickly enough.

The events of the past few weeks, in addition to those of the past few decades, demonstrate the need for improvement in the areas of diversity, sensitivity and tolerance. These issues reach beyond the black community, as they have greatly affected other ethnic minorities, those with diverse sexual orientations and many other groups and individuals. There is a strong sentiment among many within these groups that their concerns are not given sufficient attention.

Many people continue to suffer at this institution, and it is not their responsibility to bear the burden of a university in need of change. It is my hope, and the hope of many others, that change will come, and that it will come quickly. It is necessary that people now and forever understand what will and will not be tolerated at this institution. However, I hope that during this process, we can all make a sincere effort to understand the experiences of others and make personal change because we feel that it is simply the right thing to do.

May we all join in the struggle for a better institution.

Christina Chapman is a senior biomedical engineering and romance languages and literatures major from Mercerville, N.J. She is the president of the Black Student Union

Joshua Robinson

It's everyone's problem

In the wake of Sigma Chi's racially insensitive "Halloween in the Hood" party, the majority of responses have been destructive, rather than constructive, as regards useful dialogue about race. Racial problems do exist at Hopkins — problems that are neither as severe as the Black Student Union (BSU) claims nor as irrelevant as many students believe.

On one side, we have seen the immense immaturity and insensitivity of Sigma Chi — and yes, the entire fraternity is responsible for the members it selects. Of course, the brunt of the responsibility for the incident falls to Justin Park, the Sigma Chi brother who posted the racially themed Facebook invitation despite the protests of both the BSU and Greek life coordinator Robert Turning.

However, despite the fact that the BSU had already complained about the Facebook invitation being insensitive to blacks, no one in the fraternity removed the infamous hanging pirate that dangled in front of the house. Sure, Sigma Chi has used that same decoration for previous Halloweens, but somebody should have realized that it was completely inappropriate given this year's theme.

On the other side is the incendiary reaction of the BSU, which has used the actions of a handful of students to drag the name of the University through the mud. The BSU has issued a lengthy set of demands about improving diversity at Hopkins, one of which is extremely important: increasing the diversity of our faculty. At the same time, by accusing Hopkins of being a "racist institution," the BSU has merely fostered resentment against their group from many quarters of the student body.

Is racism an issue at Hopkins? The answer, from my experience, is an emphatic yes. But the racism

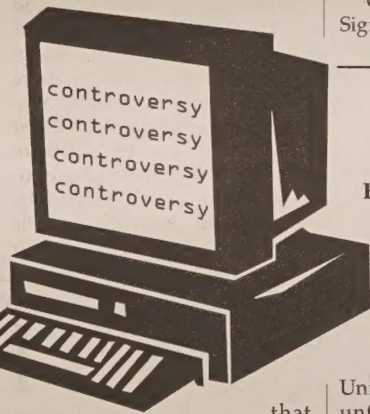
we really have to address at Hopkins isn't the joking, immature kind. It's the silent version, which leads many black students at our University to feel separate from the rest of the student community. While nobody is directly to blame for this situation, we all share responsibility. In implicitly treating black students differently, Hopkins undergrads push them out of the community. In reaction, these black students understandably bond together and interact among themselves.

The social problem is ours to solve as students, not the University's. Just as the mandatory AlcoholEDU awareness training program for incoming freshmen has had little effect on drinking patterns, diversity training is unlikely to reverse patterns of discrimination. Students at Hopkins react negatively to such mandatory programs. Instead, the BSU itself could take the reins and enact more advertising campaigns or campus-wide activities to promote tolerance. For example, the BSU could distribute a series of flyers, each describing a different actual situation in which a black student at Hopkins faced discrimination or intolerance. Likewise, it could expand its events to appeal to a broader audience while still promoting the BSU's message of tolerance.

However, the University administration does have a much more important responsibility, at least from the academic perspective. It must do more to seek out black professors.

The importance of having a diverse set of professors cannot be underestimated, yet it is widely misunderstood. Those who oppose this kind of affirmative action call it "reverse discrimination" and argue that only merit should impact faculty employment decisions.

This type of attitude assumes



By JUSTIN H. PARK

As I write this, our campus stands divided on the issue of racism at the Johns Hopkins University — the result of an unfortunate chain of events that one could arguably trace back to yours truly.

I am the former social chair of the Hopkins chapter of the Sigma Chi fraternity. As such, I was directly responsible for the event known as "Halloween in the Hood."

The invitation to the party was posted on Facebook, and was written entirely in jest as a satirical piece to advertise a typical Halloween costume party. The language used in the event description was by no

means meant to be offensive, hateful nor demeaning to any group of people or racist in any way, shape or form.

In my invitation, I referred to the city of Baltimore as an "exquisite metropolis paradise" as well as the "mother-[expletive] ghetto," a.k.a. "the hood" or as I like to call it, "the hiv pit."

I promised lavish refreshments such as "Foie Gras, Belgian Caviar, and Cambodian Breast Milk," and assured partygoers that there would be "ornate antique bathtubs

full of Evian and Perrier" for their bathing pleasure.

I won't go on because the rest of the invitation has been [mis]quoted incessantly in various media outlets.

Looking back, I realize that the language I used was crude, and most certainly unbecoming of a gentleman.

It has been brought to my attention that my invitation contained "offensive racial stereotyping" and as you read this, I am standing in front of a conduct board fighting to stay in school, facing a series of charges including:

- Intimidation of any person which results in limiting her/his full access to all aspects of life at the University,

- Conduct or a pattern of conduct that harasses a person or a group,

- Failing to respect the rights of others and to refrain from behavior that impairs the University's purpose or its reputation in the community.

I understand now that my event has offended many people. That was never my intention, and I am truly sorry from the bottom of my heart if my actions have been hurtful to anybody — regardless of socioeconomic background, race or ethnic heritage.

I spent most of my life abroad in multiple countries and have experienced firsthand discrimination because of my ethnicity, nationality and age. I have personally seen and felt the many socioeconomic issues that plague the America, as well as countless countries less privileged than the U.S.

I was invited to a BSU meeting on the Sunday immediately following the party. I went to gain some insight as to why my event may have been offensive and misconstrued as racist.

Instead of insight, I was greeted with a barrage of hostile accusations and animosity.

It is absolutely true that I was defensive at the BSU meeting, I was being denigrated, vilified, berated and censured from every corner of the room for transgressions that nobody even bothered

to explain.

It was hardly the atmosphere of education and mutual learning that I had naïvely envisioned.

I did not fully comprehend the potentially offensive nature of the invitation and party until later. I sat down with certain individuals who pointed out how aspects of the invitation, in tandem with other factors, could have been misconstrued.

Once again, I would like to apologize for any harm that I may have caused, as it was never in any sense my aim to do so.

Yes, I referred to Baltimore as the "ghetto" and described it as an "HIV pit."

But, if you haven't been keeping up with the elections or have never seen *The Wire*, you may not know that Baltimore is one of the deadliest large cities in the nation with a murder rate SIX times higher than that of New York City.

Three weeks ago, four days before my eighteenth birthday, my house on 33rd St. was broken into, and all of my worldly possessions besides my clothes were stolen.

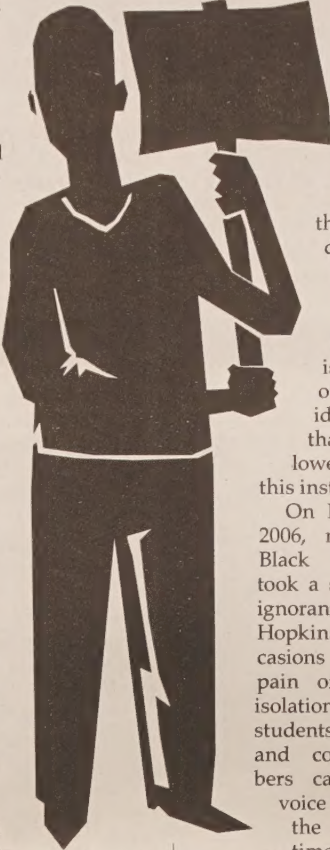
The National Institutes of Health has identified Baltimore as having an HIV/AIDS epidemic. My wording may have been callous, but the disturbing reality is that HIV is a very serious problem plaguing a city desperately strapped for funding.

HIV does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, gender or socioeconomic status. It is color-blind and transcends any and all racial or cultural barriers.

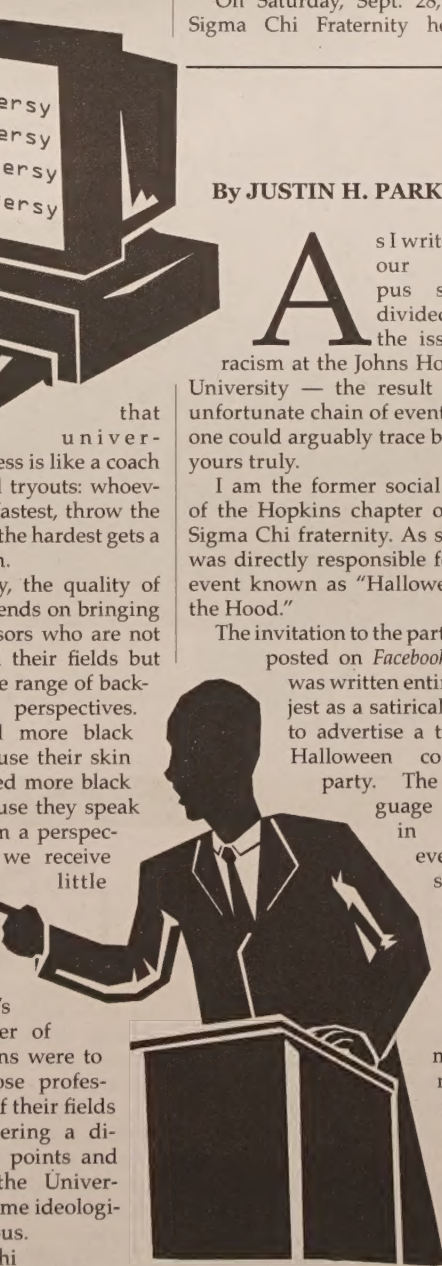
If anything, these are the issues that merit our attention — these are the issues that deserve national media coverage. And these are the issues that we should be addressing today.

This has been an invaluable learning experience for me and it is my sincere desire to emerge from it a better man.

Justin H. Park is a junior economics major from Mafsweller, Germany. He is the former social chair of Sigma Chi.



hear- ing today we will receive a more rational and fair judgment.



YOUR NEWS-LETTER

It's kind of unavoidable at this point. I almost can't not discuss it (yeah, I used a double negative, what are you going to do about it?). I'll keep this short and sweet, because I know what I think, and the *News-Letter* is kind enough to give me a forum to say it, but if I ramble on, no one will make it to the end. Besides, from what I hear, plenty of people are being long-winded. Nobody needs me to have at it, too.

As one might guess from

my unnecessarily liberal use of swears, I am a fan of free speech. But I'm also a fan of personal responsibility. Free speech, though an inalienable right, is not a blanket excuse, but something we have to be responsible about if we really want to be good people. If you say something that isn't all rainbows and kittens, you have to know who your audience is, and with certain audiences, you have to be prepared for a fallout. What you choose to do as a result

of audience response is up to you — but unless you've got a good reason (and no, I don't consider a frat party a good reason), respecting the wishes of others is usually a pretty solid thing to do.

Yes, it's vague. Yes, some people could — and, from what I hear, do — consider a frat party a "good reason" to say things that offend people. And yes, there is a huge difference between s--t, f--k dammit and racist, sexist and otherwise prejudiced words. But

if our country's history with free speech is any indication, there are no hard lines. We really do have to rely on our personal judgment, and some people's personal judgment sucks.

The fact is that we can't decide what offends other people. Even less can we say that it shouldn't offend them. All we can do is decide what we say, and whether our reasons for saying it outweigh the damage it may do.

As I hear more about how

this is progressing, and in some ways very much spiraling out of control, I would ask everyone, no matter what their opinions, to keep their goals in mind. This should be about dialogue, progress and a solution. A discussion about decency should be conducted, dare I say, decently.

If nothing else, I hope everyone comes away from this seeing the huge importance of the immortal words of Bill and Ted.

Be excellent to each other.

YOUR PERSPECTIVE

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w y n d e l t s

In the past week, a lot has been said about the Sigma Chi Halloween party. In fact, unless you live under a rock, you pretty much know what happened. Of course, there are different interpretations of what went on, but here is a rough run-down of the events:

1. An inappropriate invitation was posted on Facebook by Justin Park.
2. Sigma Chi was asked to take the invitation down.
3. Park took it upon himself to put yet another, more inappropriate invitation up on Facebook.
4. The party went on.

5. Members of the Black Student Union who were upset by the invitation went to check out the party, they took pictures of a black man being lynched (or just a regular pirate depending on your interpretation) and people in the party being dressed as slaves (or as farmers or "hicks" also depending on your interpretation). There were also some claims about a banana, but since I still don't really get it, I'm just going to say the guy was dressed as a banana.
6. Park and a few of his fellow brothers stormed the BSU meeting and claimed not to know why

their acts were offensive.

Following these events the BSU set up a protest which, in my opinion, was well warranted. The University set up a meeting to address the concerns of the students. At this meeting, students (both in the BSU and not) stated that they believed an education problem involved in that ignorance fueled this event.

The University spoke of its commitment to education and how it was willing to work with students in order to help mend the problem of ignorance at Hopkins (after all, paying \$46,000 to be ig-

norant does seem like a waste).

At this point, I was excited to hear that Hopkins students would have the opportunity to learn more about not only black history, American history as well. With the massive amount of work before me every day, even I sometimes forget the importance of a general education.

As I was walking down the Breezeway where students were handing out blue pins in honor of diversity and while I was walking by the rally held by the NAACP on campus, I kept waiting.

While these students have every right to protest, to be of-

fended, to want change and to be angry, this issue will be forgotten if they do not take this opportunity to educate others.

At the University meeting held the Monday after the party, a student volunteered to take the Sigma Chi brothers to the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum. Why not sponsor an event that allows all students to go? How about having discussion panels on the matter? Movies or documentaries?

The beauty of college is not only having professors that are the best in their field but also having students with diverse

backgrounds that we can learn from. If you are disgusted with what happened on Facebook, as I am, do something about it. How about starting a Facebook group that educates others on black history?

In the end, it is the responsibility of all students to make the best out of an event that saddens them and learn something from it. After all, learning is what college is all about.

a m a n d a
d i o s



"the entertainment industry exploits the beauty of fall to represent reflection, wistfulness and longing of times past by."

FALL INTO FALL

There are many ways to look at the word "fall." One can "fall off" something (a cliff, a horse, a bed) or "fall into" something (a spell, a coma ... a bed). Then there's a "fall from grace," "falling in love" and even the age old saying, "we had a falling out." But of all these uses of fall, only the noun itself brings with it the sights, sounds and temperatures, of passing times. Nostalgia, you say? Indeed.

It's a well known fact that the entertainment industry exploits the beauty of fall to represent reflection, wistfulness and longing for bygone times, in scenes that pervade dramatic love stories and emotional tear-jerkers. Nonetheless, fall was once (and sometimes still is) met with the joy and festivities of a harvest. While the majority of our population no longer toils to gather the goods before the frost hits, Thanksgiving, Mid-Autumn (or Moon) Festival and Sukkot all

celebrate the collection of crops in each cultures respective way. Thus fall not only lifts spirits with the raging colors all around, but also because fall now translates to food and lots of it. (Not to mention family, although in case of larger families this may translate to less food in which case the net impact of celebrating the harvest becomes zero).

Looking ahead, things don't look too grand. With a withering winter, "study-time" spring and sweltering summer. Make the most of your fall. And don't forget the four F's of fall: food, family, fun and (loss of) foliage! Some students may not be used to defined seasonal changes (cough West Coast-ers) so it's your "seasoned" professionals' responsibility to show them what unsuspecting piles of color-changed leaves are all about! Take a chance, and fall for fall!

- Arthika Chandramohan

HOW TO CRAM

Cramming is a necessary evil. Since arriving at Hopkins I have endured a number of draining, exasperating all-nighters. Each of them culminated in agonizing struggles to keep from dozing in my 9 a.m. German class. Every time I vowed, "Never again! Next time, I will start preparing an entire week in advance!"

Unfortunately, life here tends to get in the way of my diligence. "Getting work done" is now synonymous with "doing the bare minimum" and waiting until that golden "last minute."

For now, I am relying on the following tried-and-true methods of "responsible" cramming:

- Keep calm, pace yourself. Freaking out is what will keep you from remembering information, not the cramming itself.
- Solitude is almost always your greatest asset. Try turning off your cell phone, it'll help.

- Make lecture notes the first priority. In my experience they contain the most test-friendly material.
- DO NOT take Facebook breaks; they warp your perception of time. "Five minutes" of checking wall posts equals twenty real minutes of precious study time lost.
- Jot down notes as you read texts. Actively absorb the main ideas, don't just saturate the page with highlighter and leave it at that.
- For all-nighters, it's best to ingest caffeine with food in your stomach so that you're not "running on empty."
- NEVER study while lying in bed. That's just asking for sleep to get you.
- You CAN do it if you do it the right way. I would follow that with "or your money back," but the *News-Letter* is free.

- Patricia Pugh

BIRTHDAY TIPS

Why stick to the boring old ways to celebrate birthdays when you can do something a little different?

Themes are some of the best ways to put a twist on the traditional cake-and-candles birthday celebration. Try an elite "champagne, chocolates, hors d'oeuvres" event, a tea party, a Hooters recreation complete with hot wings and T-shirts, or a masquerade party. Buy colored light bulbs to create a new mood.

Senior Katerina Horska's friends threw her a kid birthday party, complete with kazoos, candy necklaces and ice cream cones, while junior Pavan Dalal's friends blessed him with a home-made cake, replete with the silhouette of an unclothed female, and accompanied more decorations.

Don't forget food and fun: The best thing about a home-made cake is the opportunity for cre-

ative decorating (see above). But don't feel restricted. Get a piñata, put candles in cookies, ice cream, subs, whatever, or use a floating candle in a fancy drink. Have friends in a dancing or singing group? Invite them over for a special performance.

Personalized cards are the best opportunity for creativity — and you don't have to stick to paper. Try getting some window paint and make a card on the window, make a birthday t-shirt, make a poster at Kinko's and decorate it, or (especially this time of year) decorate a personalized pumpkin.

The most important thing about creative parties is to think what types of things your roommate likes and run with it. Make birthday crowns or clothing. Be creative, be fun and, whatever the result, it will be an event they are not likely to forget.

- Natalie Baer

SPORTS

Win or go home: M. Soccer headed to NCAAs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A12
in the goal before the defender could get there," Kosik said.

With only a few minutes remaining, it was easy for the team to get in a celebratory mood, but the game wasn't over by any means.

With only nine minutes left until the final whistle, the Diplomats headed home their first goal of the season. The goal was only the third goal that Coble had allowed in the past 14 games, but it was enough to force sudden-death overtime, putting the Jays' future on the line.

Still, Hopkins' offense, although not always attacking the way it would like, continued to put pressure on F&M throughout overtime.

A free kick by sophomore defender Ethan Mulligan dropped perfectly onto the feet of freshman midfielder Max Venker, who fired a shot on goal. Stelz made the save, but Venker got the rebound, making sure not to miss this time. He didn't, scoring his sixth of the season, giving Hopkins the championship — the team's third in the conference — that it's been playing for the entire season.

Along with the obvious reasons, the goal was crucial in that it prevented the game from going to penalty kicks.

"The team felt that it was essential for us to go and win the game in overtime because we did not want to have PKs decide the game," Kosik said. "With that attitude, we were determined to score and eventually were able to find the winner."

In a way, the goal was a perfect finish to a perfect weekend. As exciting as the conclusion to the championship game was, it could not compare to the tension



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER

Together, the men's soccer team celebrates its dramatic one-goal victory over Centennial Conference rival Franklin & Marshall.

and pressure that surrounded the final minutes of Hopkins' first game of the weekend, on Saturday, against Gettysburg.

An unassisted goal by McAbee, combined with a late goal by Gettysburg, forced a 10-minute overtime, which featured only one shot but no goals. The second overtime wasn't much different, as neither team could get on the board, leading to penalty kicks.

After seven consecutive

goals by both teams, Gettysburg missed its fourth kick (the game's eighth penalty shot attempt), putting the Jays ahead, 4-3. Hopkins freshman defender Tommy McQueen, who has been a key piece in anchoring the defense, then put home the team's fifth of the round, clinching the team's fourth appearance in the championship.

Once again, Coble's performance was essential, as it was his save in the penalty kicks

that allowed McQueen's goal to be the game-winner. Coble, McAbee and sophomore forward Nick Guana were named to All-Centennial Conference First Team.

The two exciting wins came in a span of barely more than 24 hours, but the Jays were rewarded when the NCAA announced they had received a bye for the first round and would host their second-round match-up against the winner of the Christopher Newport-Chestnut Hill game at 7 p.m. this Saturday.

"We don't think just getting into the NCAA tournament is an accomplishment," senior forward Mo Hamzeh said, "but it feels great."

Win and go home. What could be better?

Football improves to 4-5 against non-conference foe

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A12
Tigers' defensive back Jamie Edlow intercepted Murray at the Hampden-Sydney 27-yard line. Ironically enough and on the very next play, senior defensive end Brian Cook forced a fumble from Tigers' running back Austin Williams. Cook recovered the ball himself and rumbled down to the Hampden-Sydney 13-yard line.

After a five-yard penalty on second-and-10, Murray found Triplin again on a screen pass, which Triplin took to the house for his second touchdown on the day. The Blue Jays pushed their lead to 14-3 after senior place kicker Ben Scott's converted on his one-point boot.

After recovering a fumble, it took 11 plays and five minutes for the Tigers to drive 45 yards to the end zone. The team's touchdown happened on third-and-20 from the Jays' 30-yard line when Warnement found wide receiver Michael Brooks wide open beyond the goal line. With the score, the Tigers pulled within four at 14-10.

Following a quick Hopkins field goal, the Jays' defense forced

a punt on the following drive after only five plays.

Led by Murray, the Jays put together a 12-play, 69-yard drive that took only 2:24. The Hampden-Sydney defense only forced two third downs on the drive, the second of which resulted in an 11-yard touchdown run by senior running back Mark Nesbitt which advanced the lead to 24-10 with 4:14 left in the game.

"It felt great to get back in the end zone again," Nesbitt said.

The Blue Jays got a scare on the next Tigers possession. Michael Brooks returned the Scott kickoff 76 yards to the Hopkins 18-yard line. Warnement could not convert on fourth-and-20 and the last meaningful Tigers drive.

Hopkins will end the season this Saturday on Homewood Field at 1 p.m. Visiting this week is division rival McDaniel. The Jays will look to even their record at 3-3 in the conference and 5-5 overall on the season when the Green Terror visits Baltimore.

"We are going to go out there and try to win the last game for our seniors," senior lineman Brian Nickel said.



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER

Freshman tailback Andrew Kase ran for 41 yards against Hampden-Sydney on Sat.

Tied for 4th, volleyball falls short of playoffs

Even after winning their last four games, the Jays' tumultuous season has come to a sad close

By JOHN MONAGAN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The volleyball team finished their season two weeks ago, going out with two impressive wins. But it wasn't enough. The Jays were both surprised and disappointed to watch their season come to an end despite going out on a four-game winning streak.

The Lady Jays finished their season with a record of 14-12 overall, 6-4 in Centennial Conference play. Despite the winning record and their hot play at the end of the season, Hopkins finished in a three-way tie for fourth place.

The conference accepts five teams for the playoffs, but the Jays lost the tiebreaker, missing out on a potentially revitalizing postseason.

For many of the Blue Jays, but especially their four beloved seniors, the season ended prematurely and in a most bittersweet fashion.

Going out on a winning note, middle blocker Amy Green, outside hitter Laura Carrihill, outside hitter Adri Eisen and libero Lizzie Kay will be remembered as one of the most successful classes of all time, compiling a 80-38 record over their four years in the program and being responsible for the Blue Jays' 100th Centennial Conference win.

None of this was more evident than in their final home game last Wednesday night against McDaniel. Riding the emotion of senior night, the Jays collected a 3-1 win (30-15, 26-30, 30-20, 30-23).

"Our ability to handle our emotion was important," Head Coach Scott Pennewill said. "Our seniors did a great job of controlling their emotion, and

making sure the team came out focused and executing our game plan."

Despite losing four seniors, the match against McDaniel should give Hopkins a lot of hope for next year. Junior outside hitter Natalia Fijalkowski, who struggled much of the year to harness her talent, capped off a very impressive second half of the year with a dominant performance. The outside hitter had 19 kills and 20 digs to lead Hopkins to the impressive victory.

"She ended the season playing with tremendous confidence,"

I can't think too much, and I know now it is important to just go out and play the game.

—JUNIOR OUTSIDE HITTER
NATALIA FIJALKOWSKI

Pennewill said. "She has worked extremely hard in practice, and it has carried over into games."

"I've learned a lot this season," Fijalkowski said. "I realized it isn't all about hitting the ball hard. I can't think too much, and I know now it is important to just go out and play the game."

The Lady Jays surely gained experience and developed tremendous cohesion and teamwork as the season progressed. While the season began slowly, Hopkins sandwiched two tough tournaments at NYU and Gettysburg with a Maryland D-III State Championship before starting season play.

With early season Centen-

nial Conference matches against four of the top five teams in the conference, Hopkins' grueling schedule turned out to be the team's biggest flaw.

After losing their opener against Gettysburg and winning three in a row, the Blue Jays faced what would be their season's downfall. Facing Franklin & Marshall, Haverford and Dickinson all in a row, the Jays went on a three-game skid. The loss against Haverford, although their last defeat of the season, was the most costly.

On an individual level, the Jays churned out great performances during the season. Kay finished her career by making the All-Centennial Conference second team, and sophomore setter Amanda Lewis finished with an honorable mention.

Kay, who is the all-time leader at Hopkins in digs, will be sorely missed next year. Having made the all-conference team three times while a Blue Jay, Kay will be tough to replace. The team will be hard-pressed to find somebody who will step up and play defense with the tenacity and desire that Kay has shown game-in and game-out.

Despite losing four seniors, the 2007 Jays are not without hope. Lewis continued to improve upon her sensational freshman year at setter.

While her stats remained impressive, it was her knowledge of the game and of the team concepts that impressed Pennewill throughout the season.

As a senior, Fijalkowski will also be looked upon to be a leader and convert many of the assists that Lewis will pass her way. With some help from a solid recruiting class, next year's team can be a Centennial Conference force.

Lady Jays garner win against Garnet

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A12
handful of their players went into the finals with health issues: Lane, who has an injured left arm, senior midfielder Jessie McKenzie, who is still struggling with her hamstring, and sophomore midfielder Chrissy McCurdy, who left the Sunday's match.

Those injuries, however, were treated simply as battle wounds as the Jays showed no fear in making fouls and running hard into the other team, which made for two intense and exciting games.

"When you're playing for a championship title, you have to expect to fight hard," junior defender Cassandra Vogel

said. "Once you get to post-season play, every game could be your last."

"The winner moves on and the loser goes home so every play means something therefore you fight that much harder for every ball."

Nonetheless, the nearly belligerent playing style adopted recently by Hopkins does not seem to be panning out well in the eyes of the referees. The Jays received a series of "breaks" by the game officials in last game of the regular season a week ago, but it was regrettably not the case on Sunday against the Garnet.

The officiating squad rightly dealt out yellow cards during the course of the match to Steele and midfielder Kasie Groom of Swarthmore. However, there were many handball infractions on the Garnet that were missed. Those bad calls didn't help the Jay, especially in some of the game's tight spots, but luckily Hopkins prevailed.

"We were a little disappointed by the way the game was called. However, if you can come out of a hard-fought game with a win, there should be nothing to complain about. We are happy with our draw in the NCAA tournament and we are excited to play this weekend," Vogel said.

The girls will take their post-season act to Christopher Newport University in Newport News, and they will face Salisbury University in the First Round of the 2006 NCAA Division III Women's Soccer Championship.



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER

Junior forward Kim Lane splits two defenders during the 3-1 win over Muhlenberg.

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SPORTS

Did You Know?

Indianapolis Colts QB Peyton Manning is good. How good? Since the 1970 NFL-AFL merger, only 10 quarterbacks have posted a passer rating of 104.0 or better in a single season. Since the start of the 2003 season — two and a half years, 56 games — Manning's rating stands at 107.5.

CALENDAR

SATURDAY

M. Soccer NCAA Round 2 7 p.m.

Football vs. McDaniel 1 p.m.



Sophomore midfielder Chrissy McCurdy jukes past a Muhlenberg defender during the Jays' semifinal 3-1 win that kicked off a successful Centennial Conference Tourney.

SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER

W. Soccer heading to NCAA Tournament

By ALEXANDER IP

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

After a grueling and impassioned 2006 campaign, the girls of the Hopkins women's soccer team can finally call themselves the champions of the Centennial Conference for the second consecutive year.

The honor is well deserved — the girls went undefeated against the other 10 teams in their conference during the regular season.

Their impressive overall record of 17-2 raised Hopkins from their previous 11th overall ranking to the number eight spot in the Nov. 7 NSCAA/Adidas poll.

On Friday night, the Lady Jays kicked off the conference tourney semifinals against Muhlenberg

and beat them by a score of 3-1. And on a blistery Sunday afternoon, the girls slammed the door on Swarthmore to capture the league championship in a riveting 1-0 victory.

Triumph has definitely not been the white whale for the girls this season, but it can be argued that one thing that eludes this team is a consistent offensive. As the Jays look to make their way down the NCAA Tournament bracket in the coming weeks, the hope is that this will not become a fatal flaw.

When the team stepped onto the field for their first playoff match on Friday, it was senior midfielder Nikkole Haines who showed everyone just how hungry the Jays were for a championship. In the first 13 seconds of the semifinal game against the Muhlenberg Mules, Haines rocketed a shot through the net-

ting to take the game's initial lead.

Junior forward Kim Lane mimicked Haines' explosive ability by scoring one of her own goals within the first 27 seconds of the second period to put the Jays up 2-0. Lane wasn't done, though, as she then helped sophomore midfielder Lisa Irizarry find the back of the net later in the half for Hopkins' third goal.

The powerhouse Hopkins defense kept the Mules to a mere one shot per period, but it can't be overlooked how they didn't hold on to their shutout for the last five minutes of the game. Though it has yet to cost the team any wins, the defense (which has been a pinnacle of reliability) has slumbered on occasion in similar fashion along the course of the season.

Fortunately, Friday's match was not close, as the Blue Jays

were already ahead by three when they allowed Muhlenberg midfielder Mallory DiMaio to slip by and score the lone goal for the Mules.

In spite of the aggressive play and large number of shots made in the championship game against the Swarthmore Garnet, it was still undoubtedly a defensive contest. Sophomore forward Molly Steele scored the only goal of the game and the Blue Jay defense didn't falter this time when they were called upon to hold onto the 1-0 lead for almost a full hour of play.

"We really didn't change the way we played until late in the game, when we switched from a 4-4-2 formation to a 4-5-1," Head Coach Leo Weil said.

Despite the players' desire to produce that elusive insurance point, the physical shift of focus toward defense by creating the fifth midfielder position in addition to the existing four defenders would prove to be an ingenious decision by the coach.

The Lady Jays have managed to remain relatively free of serious injuries this season. Still, a

CONTINUED ON PAGE A11

M. Soccer out-duels F&M for tourney title

McQueen and Kosik bring the offense while senior goalie Coble's brick wall performance win the Centennial Conference

By MIKE GLENWICK

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

In recent years, a popular phrase has been used to describe a make or break postseason situation: "Win or go home." In what was certainly a playoff atmosphere in this weekend's Centennial Conference tournament, the Hopkins men's soccer team was able

to win two games, and thus, the championship, beating Franklin & Marshall 2-1 in overtime. Simultaneously, the team managed to stay home, earning home-field advantage for the team's second-round match of the NCAA Division III Tournament, which will also be the team's first.

On Sunday, Hopkins and conference foe Franklin & Marshall squared off in a game that was significantly different from both team's final regular season game. Playing against each other only one week earlier, in which little other than pride was on the line, the teams fought to a 0-0 tie. The

two teams were the top seeds in the five-team tourney held at Homewood, so an exciting, competitive game was expected.

Neither team disappointed early on, but the first half was filled mostly with strong defensive play from both sides, as neither team was able to get its offense going. Franklin & Marshall managed only three shots against senior goalie Danny Coble, and Hopkins could muster only five shots on Diplomats goalie Ed Stelz.

The bulk of the second half, like the first, featured a lack of offensive play on both sides of the field, but Hopkins was finally able to break through with about 15 minutes remaining in the contest. Freshman forward Nick Kosik, who, along with a host of other freshmen, has been vital to the team's success this season, received a pass from junior co-captain forward Ben McAbee and put home the game's first goal. It was Kosik's sixth of the season.

"With the ball just a few yards away from the goal, I just ran through it and was able to put it

CONTINUED ON PAGE A11



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER

Senior forward Ben McAbee scored the only goal in regulation against Gettysburg.

Football pounces on Hampden-Sydney

By CALEB GROFF

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Senior wide receiver Anthony Triplin caught a pair of first-half touchdowns and senior line-men Brian Cook led a stifling Blue Jays defense to a dominant 24-10 win. Despite being out-gained in yardage and time of possession, the defense limited Hampden-Sydney's offense to 10 points at Homewood Field on Saturday.

The non-conference win improves the Blue Jays' record to 4-5 overall, while the loss drops the Tigers to 3-6.

The Blue Jays jumped on the Tigers early, forcing a three-play, six-yard drive on Hampden-Sydney's first offensive possession. After a 29-yard punt, the Hopkins offense took over.

The Jays worked quickly on a six-play, 65-yard drive and capped it all off with a monster 27-yard touchdown pass from freshman quarterback Michael Murray to Triplin. The key play on the drive, however, came on third and 12 when Murray found senior wide out Evan Earnest for 18

yards and a first down in Tiger's territory.

The score remained 7-0 for the remainder of the first and into the second quarter. Nevertheless, the Tigers eventually capitalized on good field positioning. The nine-play drive started on the Tigers' 47-yard line, and ended when the defense forced a field goal from the Blue Jays' 12.

The critical play of the drive occurred on a fourth and 15 when the Jays were penalized for pass interference resulting in a first down. The Tigers' Grant Hall converted a 29-yard field goal to cut the seven-point margin down to four.

The Jays were again silenced on offense, and subsequently

were forced to punt after a three-and-out. The Tigers' offense, now with momentum, took the field and put together an impressive drive.

Starting at their own 13-yard line, the Tigers drove the ball deep into Blue Jays territory taking it down to Hopkins' 15-yard line. On third-and-five, the Tigers were, however, called for offensive pass interference that knocked them back to the 30, a penalty from which they could not recover. The 13-play, 66-yard drive ended on an incomplete pass from quarterback Craig Warnement to wide receiver Drew Smith.

On the ensuing drive, the

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SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER

Junior running back Phil Roberts earns a couple of his 17 total yards as an anxious defender waits.

F. hockey's Centennial season ends vs. Bears

By EILEEN LILLY

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The Jays knew this was coming. Just as field hockey's road to the regular season title had to go through Ursinus, so, too, did the postseason crown. In the Jays' only regular season Centennial Conference loss, the Bears took a hard-fought match by a score of 2-1.

After beating the No. three-seed McDaniel to arrive in the tournament finals, Hopkins expected more of the same, preparing for what they knew would be a close game that could go either way. Their predictions proved true. Over 17 minutes passed in the first half without a single goal. Then at the 17:12 mark, Ursinus' Lindsay Cappa got the ball. Breaking past her Hopkins' defender and she ran to the middle of the circle and attracted the swarming Hopkins defense. As the defenders closed in on her, Cappa spied her fellow teammate Karen Wendler open on the left side of the field and passed the ball between the defenders. Wendler snatched the ball and rolled it in past Hopkins' senior goalie Dayna Eng for the first and only goal of the game. Ursinus went on to win, 1-0.

Hopkins and Ursinus fought a back and forth battle for the rest of the game, neither team able to break past the other's defense. Hopkins had several shots on goal, but was unsuccessful in fooling Ursinus' goalie Jess Lamina. Senior goalie Dayna Eng was just as imposing in front of the goal, with seven saves in the game.

"The conference championship was a very close game. We fought hard until the very end and never gave up," junior forward Megan Maguire said, "I am proud of the way our team stayed composed and played 'Hopkins hockey' until the end."

Luckily, the loss wasn't entirely the end. The Jays may have missed out on the Centennial Conference title and an NCAA tournament bid, but they have been invited to the ECAC tournament that starts this Wednesday. "Even though we didn't make it to the NCAAs we're still looking forward to ECACs," sophomore forward Katie Wong said. "We didn't even have enough points last year to make it into the ECACs, so at least it's something."

Despite the loss in the finals, the Jays displayed mettle in their semifinal victory they hope to carry over to the ECACs. Hopkins had recently squeaked by McDaniel with a 3-2 come from behind victory. This time the Green Terror wasn't lucky enough to keep it

close. The Blue Jays took control of the lead and held on to win, 4-1.

Hopkins scored the first three goals of the game all in the first half. Junior midfielder Sarah Bender began the Hopkins offensive strike at 11:27 off of a penalty corner with assists from senior midfielder Amy Soergel and junior forward Kristin Strief. Freshman midfielder Brittany Bland followed at 24:45, this time assisted by Bender. Sophomore forward Emily Miller scored Hopkins' third and final goal of the first half off of a pass by freshman forward Andrea Vandersall on a fast break.

McDaniel could only produce a quiet answer. Their lone goal came at the end of the first half, when the Terror's Brooke Dixon scored off a penalty corner. But Hopkins' Wong came right back and scored one more goal in the second half, as the Blue Jays won a decisive victory over McDaniel.

The Blue Jays outshot McDaniel 15-5 and had 16 penalty corners to McDaniel's four. The Jays clearly dominated on the offensive: Eng had three saves in the game, while her McDaniel counterpart, Erika Wawzyanick, had to stop 10 Blue Jay shots. Not including the ones that went in, of course.


The Jays will host Wesley in the first round of the ECAC Tournament this Wednesday at 7 p.m. at Homewood Field.

THE B SECTION

The Johns Hopkins
News-Letter

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NOVEMBER 9, 2006



INJECTING YOUR OWN FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH

GRAPHIC BY MATT HANSEN AND WILLIAM PARSCHALK

For most people, the word “Botox” evokes images of freakishly taut socialites willing to spend vast sums of money to ward off the wear and tear of age. But the Botox fad has spread almost as quickly as the bacterium it’s derived from, recently infiltrating nearby Hampden. A naïve, unwrinkled *News-Letter* reporter ventured deep into this unnaturally smooth world and lived to tell the tale. **Features, B3**

The Good Doctor successfully weaves together clever characters

By **HEATHER BARBAKOFF**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Those who argue that Hopkins doesn’t have a thriving theater community must not have attended the recent Barnstormers production of *The Good Doctor*, written by Neil Simon and directed by Dave Dalton. Performed by a talented student cast, the play provides for a delightfully entertaining evening on the Homewood Campus. Interweaving nine separate stories into one over-reaching arch, each member of the Barnstormer cast of 10 plays multiple characters.

Upon entering the Swirnow Theatre, the audience is immediately transported into the rapidly deteriorating world of The Writer (junior Rob Kasten). Notices of eviction are plastered on the windows and scattered on the desk as The Writer welcomes the audience into both his study and solitary life. A brief tour reveals holes in the floor, a leaking roof and the frustration of a soul trying to find his life’s purpose. This opening soliloquy sets the tone for the remainder of the night, con-

sisting of serious pronunciations blended with humor and fantastic comedic timing by the cast to relieve the tension. It becomes clear early on that The Writer is not merely the play’s narrator; he speaks directly to the audience as well as interacts with the action happening on stage.

From the opening monologue, it becomes clear that the play will be an accumulation of The Writer’s short stories and personal experiences; as he retreats to his desk and begins to tell the tale, the next scene opens on the first of the play’s nine stories, “The Sneeze.”

Telling the tale of an awful *faux pas* committed by the career-ambitious Cherdoyakov (junior Peter Lipman), “The Sneeze” is a comic interlude that allows the cast to display its combination of physical and comedic acting talents. Lipman plays the bumbling character of Cherdoyakov well, with the proper balance of desperation, aspiration and spinelessness. His superior, General Brassilhov, played by sophomore Scott Morse, provides an enjoyable foil to Lipman’s character.

CONTINUED ON PAGE B6



COURTESY OF THE JHU BARNSTORMERS

Junior Peter Lipman jokes with sophomores Scott Morse, Holly Caracappa (back) and Elysha Chang.

INTERNET Focus

Online resources are essential for students

By LAUREN STRELEC
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Digital resources have become invaluable to college students. If Instant Messenger, Gmail and Facebook are already bookmarked on your browser, consider checking out these Hopkins Web sites.

From academic opportunities to photos of the soccer team, the following Web sites provide students with information to interact with and take part in the Hopkins community, all with the click of a mouse.

The DailyJolt

For any criticism it receives, the Jolt deserves respect as a fairly reliable and comprehensive resource for undergraduates. With a quick glance at the site's front page, students can find out the weather forecast, shuttle schedule, and daily local and campus events. With links to the Student Health and Wellness, the Registrar, the "Marketplace" and the Rideboard, the DailyJolt efficiently answers questions and exposes resources that may otherwise go unnoticed.

The Jolt also offers some interactive features. In addition to photo contests and polls, where users may vote on anything from current campus-wide issues to how much sleep they normally get, the Jolt's forums are popular media for open student communication. Organized by topics including Relationships and Politics, students can talk about the latest issues by logging into the forums, or remaining anonymous.

Check it out on the Web at <http://jhu.dailyjolt.com>.

JHU Official Athletic Site

While digital resources offer Hopkins students academic information and online communication, one Web site is dedicated to school life in the realm of the extracurricular.

Though we may not be a Big Ten school, Hopkins athletics are alive and well. (Just ask the Men's and Women's soccer teams!)

The success and prestige of our lacrosse team is fairly well known on campus. Other sports, however, are largely invisible to students who are not themselves athletes or the friends of athletes.

For those of you unable to get out of the library and catch a game, keep score of your Blue Jays online via Hopkins' official athletics site.

In addition to game scores and schedules, students can use the athletics site to scope out bios and stats on team rosters.

Following the link to Blue Jays Unlimited, Hopkins' organized fund for student athletes and programs, students, alumni and parents can sign up for memberships and make a contribution to support the athletic community.

With a look into the online store for Hopkins and Blue Jay-emblazoned apparel, the JHU Athletics Web site is a great place to bone up on campus sports, support teams and even snag a sweatshirt to keep warm in the stands.

After visiting this online resource, students should have no excuse not to attend a game in person, so see you in The Nest!

Visit <http://hopkinssports.cstv.com> for more information.

Registrar and Intersession

As Fall term finals are looming ominously nearer, take heart. Winter Break is sooner than you think.

For some, the prospect of lounging at home for a few weeks is glorious; for others, boredom is already a concern.

From Jan. 3 to Jan. 19th, Hopkins offers Intersession, during which students may participate in a "mini-semester" of classes and programs.

A visit to the Intersession Web site lets students peruse this year's course book and offers advice and deadlines for registration. Organized by academic, personal enrichment, study abroad and experiential learning, the online Intersession course catalogue offers some surprising opportunities.

This year's selection includes titles, such as "Non Normative Sexualities: Framing the Question of Prostitution," "Heaven and Hell in Early America" and a course exploring reality television in relation to history.

Study abroad options offer trips to Ecuador and Florence, and an economics excursion to New York City.

Most classes are worth one or two credits, but check the site for details. Registration can be completed online or in person at the Office of the Registrar.

With potential opportunities to get credit for exploring the rainforest or learning about TV, who knew school could this much fun?

For more information visit <http://www.jhu.edu/isession>.



Services provided by Turnitin.com discourage JHU students from dishonest work by thoroughly checking papers for plagiarism.

Turnitin.com concerns prove untrue

By JAMES FREEDMAN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

"There are a number of situations where inaccurate statements about Turnitin are made from people who don't actually understand how Turnitin works," John Barrie, creator of the fundamental technology behind the Internet-based plagiarism detection site <http://www.turnitin.com>, said.

Misunderstanding on the part of students, professors and administrators about the purpose

and everything else is okay, I would suspect an instructor would say, 'That's okay, no problem.' But if an instructor receives a report back from us and three paragraphs are highlighted, then the instructor might want to ask a couple of questions."

Universities such as Hopkins typically utilize an honor code that stipulates, in the case of Hopkins, "All material submitted should be the student's own original work."

Despite this, the School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Engineering

have purchased school-wide subscriptions to the Turnitin service. Some might view this as faculty and administrator mistrust of students, but Barrie said it's only

to ensure what everyone's "playing by the same rules."

"The use of Turnitin is no different than having a referee on the football field," he said. "If you have a referee on the football field, that doesn't imply that you don't trust your athletes — the referee is just there to make sure that everyone is playing by the same rules. In the classroom, Turnitin doesn't imply that you don't trust your students or that you think they're all cheaters. Turnitin is there ... to make sure everyone is playing by the same rules."

The odds of stringing the same 16 words together as somebody else, by chance, is less than one in a trillion.

— JOHN BARRIE,
TURNITIN.COM CREATOR

Students sometimes

worry about the efficacy of the system and the potential for false positives, which could result in an innocent student accused of what Barrie terms the "capital crime in education," plagiarism.

But according to Barrie, who's also the president and CEO of Turnitin's parent company, false positives are extremely unlikely.

"The odds of stringing the same 16 words together as somebody else, by chance, is less than one in a trillion," he said. "Look at it this way — if an instructor receives a report back from us and it has 16 words underlined

The Internet is more than just a place to kill time

By LAYLA BARARPOUR
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

While many Web sites serve to distract, there's an inherent usefulness to computers and the Internet. If there wasn't, companies wouldn't use them in the workplace. Take advantage of these online sites to make your academic life easier!

Wikipedia

Currently ranked as the 15th most visited site by *Alexa.com*, "the free encyclopedia" can give you a leg up on any research project or paper.

You can even contribute to Wikipedia, if you're so inclined, by clicking "edit this page" at the top of almost any article. And that's the problem. When so many Internet users have edito-

rial control there's no guarantee on the quality and accuracy of content.

So use Wikipedia freely, contribute, but employ caution and find corroborating sources before relying on anything you glean from the site.

Also try not to cite Wikipedia as your primary source — most professors won't look kindly on it.

Visit <http://en.wikipedia.org> for the English version of this online encyclopedia.

Google Docs & Spreadsheets

Have you ever lost a paper due to file corruption or a hard drive crash the night before it was due? Don't have Microsoft Excel, but need to use a spreadsheet program? Need to collaborate with team members on a group project?

Consider using one of Google's newest offerings.

After buying up Internet startup Writely, Google merged it with its own Spreadsheets Web application and created "Google Docs & Spreadsheets."

You can now edit documents online and they'll be

saved on Google's servers and accessible from anywhere. The program lets you upload ".doc" and ".xls" files and lets you export in a wide variety of formats.

And for a group project, nothing beats this interface. Multiple users can work on the same document simultaneously and chat about it in a box to the right of the editing area.

Google Docs & Spreadsheets uses your Google account, so if you use Gmail or Google Calendar, you can visit <http://docs.google.com> and sign in with your Google username and password. Otherwise can register for a free account.

mynoteIT

Do you find yourself looking up classmates on Facebook in order to ask for the notes from last class or next week's assignment?

Well, if you do, check out <http://www.mynoteit.com>.

This Web site combines social networking with academic organization for an unrivaled user experience.

You can post questions on a message board, take notes online or upload your notes to mynoteIT, access notes from your cellphone, schedule upcoming appointments on the built-in calendar, keep track of your grades and communicate with others who are taking the same course.

Of course, all of this can be done via spreadsheets, calendar applications and Word — except

for the social networking part. But check out mynoteIT and see if it's right for you.

LexisNexis

LexisNexis, available through the library's Web site, offers access to a bunch of academic articles, news stories, legal rulings, and more.

Check out the "online resources" tab at <http://www.library.jhu.edu> for this and other resources, free to Hopkins students.

And for the premed student, PubMed is also available from the same site, for free, offering archives of a variety of medical articles.

Google Scholar

Go to <http://scholar.google.com> to find scholarly articles using Google's fast, comprehensive search technology. <http://scholar.google.com>

They've recently added a new feature that is of particular use for Hopkins students. If you're searching from a campus Internet connection, all results will have a "FIND IT @ JHU" result, which will automatically search the Johns Hopkins Libraries for a copy of the work in question.

So for those of you who think Facebook is the only thing on the World Wide Web, know this — you can actually get some work done or even gain some knowledge by using this thing they call the Internet.

Check out these new ways to surf

By JAMES FREEDMAN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

According to most surveys, nearly 90 percent of Internet users still rely on Microsoft's Internet Explorer, the Web browser that comes pre-installed in Microsoft's Windows operating system. But it's not your only choice.

Mozilla Firefox

Firefox is an open-source browser, meaning anyone can take a look at its source code, report bugs or security threats, and even come out with unofficial versions geared toward specific users or computer hardware.

Firefox works on Windows, Mac and Linux. The newest version, Firefox 2.0, features tabbed-browsing, like all of the other browsers in this article, pop-up blocking and a session-saver functionality that lets you restore all your previously open windows after a crash.

One of the most powerful aspects of Firefox, however, is its add-ons capability. You can choose from thousands of extensions or themes to change the look and feel of the browser, or to change the way it interacts with the World Wide Web. AdBlock, for example, lets you right-click on any banner ad and ban it from ever showing up again.

Another Firefox 2.0 addition is on-line spellchecking. You can now see the wavy-underline you're used to from Microsoft Word while editing a message in Facebook or an e-mail in Gmail.

Firefox is currently gaining market-share on Internet Explorer, with over 10 percent of the market last year, according to OneStat, a Web analysis company.

Opera

The browser widely-regarded as introducing tabbed-browsing to a mainstream audience, Opera used to be paid-for software, or free with obtrusive banner advertisements. It's now free, and offers most of the features of Firefox and more.

While many users prefer the ease-of-use of Firefox and the wide-variety of extensions available for it, Opera has built-in features ranging from a session saver like Firefox, security features, a "widget engine," true full-screen browsing and more.

Opera is also known for being the best handheld browsing software.

You can get a free copy of Opera for your cellphone, other mobile devices or PC, Mac or Linux, from <http://www.opera.com>.

Mac Browsers

If you're a Mac user, you're certainly familiar with Safari. It's fast, light-weight, but it's not yet supported by some Web sites, such as Google Docs & Spreadsheets.

If you want an alternative, you can check out Opera or Firefox for the Mac, Opera for the Mac, or a Mac-specific Firefox build known as Camino.

Camino uses the same Gecko rendering engine as Mozilla's Firefox browser, according to Camino Team Coordinator Samuel Sidler in an e-mail.

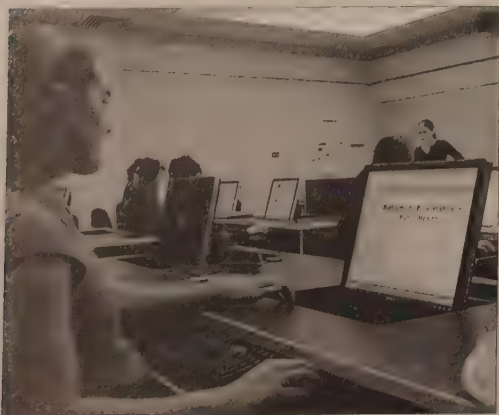
"Camino combines the awesome visual and behavioral experience that has been central to the Macintosh philosophy with the powerful web-browsing capabilities of the Gecko rendering engine," Sidler said. "Built and tested by thousands of volunteers, Mozilla's Gecko brings cutting-edge innovations and capabilities to users in a standards-friendly and socially responsible form."

Camino, available at <http://www.caminobrowser.org>, offers the Firefox experience with a Mac look-and-feel. Camino, specifically coded for Mac OS X, runs much faster than Firefox and offers some useful built-in features such as ad-blocking.

Internet Explorer

The newest incarnation of a classic, Internet Explorer 7 adds a bunch of features from these other browsers like tabs.

Get it from Windows Update.



FILE PHOTO

Library computers can access online services like LexisNexis.



LAURA BITNER/NEWS-LETTER

Most campus computers are equipped with Internet Explorer for basic surfing.

FEATURES

A nip and a tuck: Botox parties all the rage

By **MAX MCKENNA**
Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Botox: Everyone's got it. Terri Hatcher's got it. Kathy Griffin's got it. Hell, even Axl Rose has got it! Certainly a college freshman who doesn't look a day over 16 is eligible for, and could surely benefit from, a couple injections of America's most famous pharmaceutical.

At least that's what I thought when I attended the Botox Symposium in Hampden last Friday. However, after about an hour at Kiss n' Makeup, the Avenue cosmetics boutique that hosted the event, my mind was made up to the contrary.

The Symposium was a casual affair, attended by a strange combination of prissy, appearance-obsessed women and scruffy, neighboring Hampden shop owners who seemed to be there mainly for the wine and cheese. Shortly after arriving, I was approached by Heidi, the "Friendly Botox Rep" (as the event's invitation called her) with a suspicious lack of surname. Heidi lived up to her description by being very pleasant, and she was eager to tell me about the exciting world of this ever-more common cosmetic procedure.

"Botox," Heidi said, "is a muscle relaxant. It has been used to treat babies born with club feet, as well as cervical dystonia (a condition involving the involuntary contraction of neck and head muscles). Cosmetically, Botox injections reduce the contraction of the facial muscles responsible for creating wrinkles and creases." Basically, since its approval by the FDA in 2002, Botox has allowed people to, in an almost *Brave New World* way, sacrifice the ability of facial expression for extended youth. Heidi assured me the firm she represented was moderate in its administration of the drug, to avoid that "Nicole Kidman surprised-look," but I began to think that maybe her seemingly cheery disposition was not from the wine.

"The procedure itself is quick and painless," she said, speaking from experience. In fact, a Botox session is so rapid (usually lasting only 10 minutes, with no downtime afterward) that people have called it the "lunchtime face-lift." A typical procedure involves just a few tiny injections of minute amounts of Botox, which Heidi compared to a series of insect bites, in key locations in the face.



Botox was approved by the FDA in 2002 as a less invasive alternative to facial cosmetic surgeries, which can be very painful.

Ten minutes? Minimal pain? As far as rejuvenating activities go, Botox was beginning to sound a lot easier than going to the dentist or working out. That's when Heidi unveiled the catch: Botox is temporary, and patients usually go for new injections every three to six months, since the effect tends to wear off by then.

The frequency with which Botox is renewed has led to allegations of the procedure's addictive nature. A recent British study showed that four out of 10 people who receive regular Botox injections two to four times a year have a compulsive motive for doing so. Botox has a psychological effect on these people: In addition to looking younger, they report feeling younger. In England, some have begun exploiting this need for mental rejuvenation. The "Biker-Botox" program, for example, involves motorcycle-riding doctors making house-calls to administer injections more conveniently than any dealer with a fix.

The underlying chemical in Botox is botulinum toxin type A. Toxin. That connotes toxicity, right? "Botox is perfectly safe and has been approved by the FDA," Heidi said. "The most common side effects are temporary eyelid droop and nausea." It turns out, though, that Botox has some skeletons in the closet, and a scary history that Heidi did not reveal. In the late 1800s,

botulinum toxin was known as "sausage poison" for its tendency to cause food poisoning in badly handled meat products. During the 20th century, the chemical's lethality was exploited, and it was used in grenades in World War II. In the 1960s the CIA laced cigars with Botox as part of a plot to assassinate Fidel Castro. It was discovered in the 1980s that small amounts of the drug could act as a muscle relaxant causing little to no immediate harm, but some scientists maintain Botox has not been used long enough to accurately determine its carcinogenic or fatal effects.

OK, so Botox may not be entirely safe, but then again what is? Indeed, Botox is a much safer method to looking and feeling young again than, say, riding a motorcycle and smoking cigarettes. But is it cheaper? Heidi, like any good saleswoman, remained ambiguous about her product's price, telling me the cost varies depending on the patient. But cosmetic procedures are not known to be cheap, and Botox, it so happens, can sometimes cost up to \$1,000 per session! That's more than a junkie pays for a speedball! That means Botox could be costing some very dedicated patients around \$3,000 per year for as long as they undergo the treatment, which may be from the time they are 30 until they die. For that kind of money you could fund an expedition to

the Fountain of Youth.

The most striking aspect of the symposium was the crowd. Susan B. Anthony must be spinning in her grave: Not only were the women objectifying themselves, they were objectifying each other.

"Look at that line in her cheek," one woman said of her adolescent daughter, as if pointing out the flaws in the younger generation would somehow refresh her own.

"Oh, you need to get those creases in your nose filled," another woman said to her friend. It was like being in that scene of *Brazil* where all the women go to get their faces lifted, but they still look and act horribly afterward. Some of the women there had gotten Botox done, others were interested in it, but all of them were missing the point that it doesn't matter how young you look, nothing can mask the type of bitterness and vanity that only comes with age.

The only people there not overcome by Botox-mania were the Hampdenites, who were probably all wondering what a Botox Symposium was doing in their neighborhood notorious for its emphasis on personality. After my chat with Heidi, I joined them in the corner for some hors d'oeuvres, confident that when my mid-life crisis comes around, I'll probably just pick up a Harley and a pack of Marlboros.

Beware of the "Tipping Point" as fashions alter

Every so often the world of fashion is inundated with a deluge of new talent so rife with innovation that the current market place forcibly undergoes restructuring. New brands and styles replace the old, and the early adopters with their trend-spotting vision reinvent what's in or out.

As author Malcom Gladwell might refer to it, this restructuring represents the "tipping point" for new brands and styles, where the current must-haves become passé — quite covertly — and without warning, new counterparts take their coveted position.

Having just returned from one of my semi-regular NYC jaunts, it is clear to me that this "tipping point" has occurred, as the current fashion landscape is teeming with new designers, new trends and an abundance of early-adopters with the confidence to sport the gear.

Among the leaders of the "new brand pack" is the Swedish-based jeans company Cheap Monday, a denim product of which I've been a devotee since discovering in London last year. These unisex jeans are the ideal drainpipe/skinny trousers, with the perfect balance of stretch-material and rigidity to emit that "fashionable rocker" vibe. They come in nearly every color that's fit to wear, from the original distressed gray (à la Kate Moss) to skin-tight electric red.

And they're not called Cheap for nothing. These must-have jeans are just \$65 a pair — an unbelievable steal, especially considering the A-listers who croon over them. However, like all good things, Cheap Mondays can be hard to find, as just a few stores in Manhattan and Los Angeles stock them. (See the *Where to Buy* guide.)

Another newly popular entrant is California-based label Trovata. A favorite among up-

scale hipsters and those who take their clothing with a pinch of off-beat-edge, retailers from Barneys to Bloomingdale's can't get enough of these quirky designs. Signature styles include visibly off-centered stitching, faux tortoise shell buttons and horizontal stripes a plenty. Trovata is one very progressive brand that provides its wearer with clothing that truly makes a statement.

One of the most unexpected labels to hit the must-have scene is that of Billionaire Boys Club. A label started by rapper Pharell Williams, style analyst and gurus initially snubbed the brand as being that of another "celeb designer wannabe." However, BBC's signature diamond and ice cream print, in wildly bright pastels, has become a staple among the wardrobes of fashion-conscious men, and can be found at upscale retailers throughout the country.

Although this ever-hot brand has been around

for over two years now, Tsubi jeans continue to sheath the lower torso of the trendiest stars and fashion aficionados around. Hailing from the Outback, this Australian brand can truly be credited for the popularization of the skinny jean, first spotted on the likes of Nicole Richie, Lindsay Lohan and Ryan Seacrest.

Unlike other high-end denim brands, Tsubi individualizes its creations with signature touches like emblazoned "plus signs" on the jeans' rear and a hastily scribbled "Tsubi" at the right-hip pocket. As of late, the company has put out a line of retro shades that are sure to be the next "big thing" in eyewear.

A personal favorite designer of mine, Jeremy Scott has made a name for himself with trousers, sweatshirts, dresses and even pajamas covered with odd prints, like eyeballs, Snicker wrappers and alphabet soup. Not for everyone's taste, Scott is sure to attract a cult of zany dressers.

CONTINUED ON PAGE B5

Sorry, but you can't get your cherry back

Right now I'm sitting in the HAC lab, asking my friends about masturbating. I can honestly say I never saw myself in this position three years ago. In high school, I always followed the straight and narrow path: never drinking, smoking or having sex. Surprise! Though I had a few boyfriends, my sexuality developed at a slow pace. During a rehearsal for Fame my freshman year, I had my first kiss when my soon-to-be gay boyfriend shoved his tongue down my throat.

Though it was exciting, I ended up asking my friend if it was supposed to hurt like it did. Sophomore year, I was dumped by the older "Italian Stallion" because of my lack of experience and unwillingness to take things past second base in his crummy Dodge Neon. But that summer, things got more heated. What began as an opportunity to learn about my sexuality through a "friends with benefits" situation ended as an amazing two-and-a-half-year relationship. As far as the learning process is concerned, it's important to be with someone that you are comfortable with and truly care about.

After thinking more closely about this question of the origins of my sexuality, I realized that things began earlier than

my first long-term relationship. Maybe my parents are responsible, having introduced me to Def Leppard at three years old. I sure loved performing "Pour Some Sugar On Me" for anyone who was willing to watch. Later on, I spiced things up between Barbie and Ken as they made out in the back of her pink convertible.

Upon discussing this topic of young sexuality with friends, I learned that I wasn't the only curious child. One friend played "Sleeping Beauty," and, though she forgets the details, she remembers that it concluded with

a kiss from her boy playmate. For her, a peck on the lips wasn't strong enough to break the curse. She instructed him to kiss longer but he refused and ran away. Another friend was scarred after being yelled at by the video store clerk when



Ashley Wietsma
Orgasmic Chemistry

peeking into the "Adults Only" room. Many learned about sex through raunchy jokes at sleepovers. One in particular ends with the little boy sleeping with his parents screaming "Mommy, turn on your headlight, Daddy's snake is going into the grass."

Whether it was through '80s music or playing make-believe, true sexual awakenings, however, do not occur during harmless play. One's first experiences



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.NYTSTORE.COM
If you could do it all over again, would you? Hopefully, the answer is a resounding no.

of physical pleasure open up a whole new world. Everyone remembers his or her first kiss. What I wouldn't give to regain that electric sensation from those first few make-out sessions. It's the kind of feeling that leaves a permanent smile on your face. I remember my cousin falling dramatically onto my bed after a date and saying, childishly, with a sigh, "I love kissing." That freshness and purity of intimacy sadly dissipates with time and experience.

There are many firsts: first kiss, make out session, hickey, feeling of nakedness, hand job, oral and, of course, intercourse. Some argue that there are still other firsts after having sex, including your first time having anal sex or a

three-some.

What happens when you run out of "firsts" after experiencing everything? Is it possible to regain those innocent teenage feelings? Regrettably, you can't fully recapture the full body tingle from your first kiss. But you can still experience the feelings of newness after time has passed. With each new partner comes the opportunity for an exciting fresh experience.

Here's a nice tip: The longer you wait, the more intensely you will feel it. Anticipation along with some healthy hormonal frustration will heighten these feelings. By making each experience unique and special, you can make every moment one of sexual discovery.



SEVEN NEW YORK

This small SoHo boutique is always ahead of the pack, carrying a small but progressive selection of avant-garde designers from Cheap Monday to Bernhard Willhelm and Obesity and Speed.
110 Mercer St.
(646) 654-0156

OPENING CEREMONY

Another SoHo haunt, this bohemian-inspired store houses a wide variety of lesser-known designers, as well as hard-to-find, unique garments and accessories from brands like A.C.N.E Jeans and Topshop London.
35 Howard St.
(212) 219-2668

BARNEYS NEW YORK

While this store is both national and well-known, its New York City flagship carries the most extensive collection of new designers from around the world. Always willing to take a chance on fresh entrants, Barneys is the place to head for cutting edge style.
660 Madison Ave.
(212) 826-8900

LOUNGE

Walking into this airy, two-level store is like entering any of the hip shops lining Los Angeles' La Cienega Boulevard. The styles here are very West Coast, from the embroidered True Religion jeans to the wide-ranging collection of Ed Hardy hoodies and hats. Also check out their stellar collection of hard-to-find sunglasses, including Tsubi's new collection.
593 Broadway St.
(212) 226-7585

JEFFREY

This highly regarded boutique was popularized by the girls of *Sex and the City*, who regularly dropped big bucks on the Christian Louboutins. After a spree at Jeffrey, head to the roof deck of the nearby Gansevoort Hotel for a glass of champagne with an aerial view.
449 W. 14 St.
(212) 206-1272

FEATURES

JHU cuts loose with *Rocky Horror* on Halloween

By CARA SELICK
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

What's a better way to spend a Saturday night than learning how to do the Time Warp and finding out that Johns Hopkins Freshmen don't know how to fake an orgasm? A small group of passionate Hopkins students (including some alumni) are dedicated to bringing students a small taste of tasteful debauchery a couple times a year in the form of a staged showing of the 1975 cult classic *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*.

For those less familiar with the RHPS, or as the more experienced like to call them, Rocky Virgins, the show originated as a stage production before it was adapted for the film starring Tim Curry, Susan Sarandon, Barry Bostwick and Richard O'Brien, who also wrote the show.

The movie originally flopped, but was resurrected with a major cult following. Every Halloween, if not every Saturday night, cities across the country re-enact the movie in front of the screen, playing the parts along with the film.

For the past eight years, a group affectionately called Homesick Abortions, based off one particular callback (phrases screamed at the screen timed with words and actions in the movie) at the end of the show, has made sure that this tradition has been extended to the Hopkins community.

The vagabond group began with a few upperclassmen who were zealous about sexual flamboyancy and *Rocky Horror*. After setting up the first showing of the film, they eventually passed the torch to Ryan Hopson ('04) who recruited many of his friends to be involved in the cast, most of whom remained in the cast until last year. The group was then passed on to Dave Haldane ('07),

then sophomore, who took it into his own hands to negotiate with the authorities to make the viewings an official and (partially) funded event.

However the money provided by the school doesn't nearly cover the costs of the productions, and Dave, the group's current lead, Frank-N-Furter, often ends up paying out of his own pocket.

As devastating as any loss of money is for a college student, Haldane values the need for such an event on campus. "I don't necessarily enjoy the costume," he says, "but I appreciate the need for JHU kids to cut loose and enjoy themselves without repercussions... as well as a chance for some of them to have a LOT of fun with sexuality."

And Johns Hopkins' students, of all people, could use any opportunities they can afford to experience something that places them outside of their normal comfort zone.

Jason Maur ('07) describes the *Rocky Horror* experience as "simply a great way to break out of the common trend of Hopkins life. It is unlike really anything else that goes on here."

"Yes, we have theatre, but this is different. It is a chance to have some fun in a very unique fashion." *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* definitely provides students with an outlet for the most unique kind of fun.

Following the tradition and spirit of RHPS, each show be-

gins with a deflowering of all the Virgins in the audience. This can range from having to fake an orgasm onstage to some fun with whipped cream.

The audience of any *Rocky Horror* live viewing anywhere tends to be more readily accepting of their initiation tasks than expected, perhaps due to the lack of sobriety that many people come to

gold thong). Any basic plot summary of the movie would fall short, because *Rocky Horror* isn't about the plot. In fact, many cast members would agree that it isn't too great of a cinematic piece.

Participation in RHPS, whether in the cast, crew, or even the audience, is about letting go, feeling free to express yourself and coming together as a community



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.ACADEMYTHEATRE.COM

Enthusiastic Rocky fans annually celebrate Halloween by attending live performances all over the U.S.



COURTESY OF JEN ARMSTRONG

For a quick way to visit Fell's Point and the Inner Harbor, try taking a segway tour.

Segs and the City

The Baltimore Mini Harbor Segway Safari offers thrill seekers an unique way to take a tour of Baltimore

By JEN ARMSTRONG
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Admit it. Ever since the Hop Cops got their shiny new Segways at the beginning of the year, you've been dying to take a ride. You think about those extra five minutes of sleep you could get if only you didn't have to walk so slowly, you weigh your desire to do figure-eights in front of MSE or, like one girl I saw a few weekends ago, drunkenly request a ride home.

While the Hop Cops are unfortunately unwilling to loan out their equipment, there is always another option for the motorized transport enthusiast: Segway tours. Relatively new to Baltimore, there are a number of tours in the Baltimore-D.C. area that allow you to see the city and try your hand at driving a Segway.

This weekend, I signed myself up for the Baltimore Mini Harbor Segway Safari, which promised to provide a complete overview of Baltimore's Inner Harbor and Fell's Point over the course of an hour. I personally know embarrassingly little about the city in which I live, so I was looking forward to a little history with my scootering.

My Segway partner and I showed up for the tour 10 minutes early for our training session, and I was personally excited to see that our Segways would be hot pink and bear the name of the tour company, "Segs and the City," in full-out *Sex and the City* lettering.

However I was not so excited to learn that Segways are harder to ride than they look. The Segway

Web site claims that its machines are "intuitive" and apparently have some gyroscopic technology to make balancing even easier.

But, these engineers apparently did not account for some people's inherent clumsiness. My poor balance causes me numerous accidents and, therefore, spent my entire 10-minute training session (and a good portion of time thereafter) trying hard not to fall flat on my face, spin myself off my Segway, or collide



COURTESY OF JEN ARMSTRONG

It may look strange, but Segways are becoming the latest fad in seeing Bmore.

into another person.

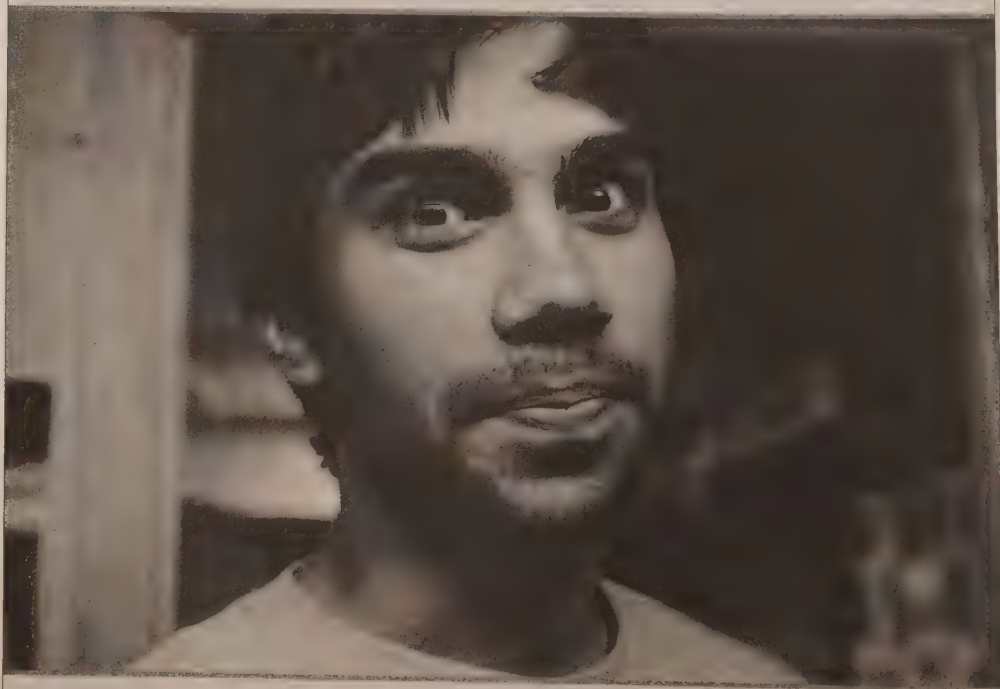
Fortunately, after a little practice and a close call with a cyclist, I got the Segway under control and we set out on our tour. We started our tour at Fell's Point, bouncing our wheels over some cute cobblestone streets as our tour guide pointed out the sights,

CONTINUED ON PAGE B5

Spring Breakers Wanted

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HOT AT HOPKINS



- **STEPHEN SANDFORD**
Hometown:
Missoula, MT
Major: International Studies
Year: Senior

Ladies, prepare yourselves: this sexy hunk declares "I can read minds." Hmm, that should take some of the guess work out of a relationship with

this 6-foot-10-inch, brown haired, blue eyed catch. Walk by him in a tight short skirt "preferably with nothing underneath" with the Johnny Cash playing, and he'll get excited. Don't worry too much though; he listed worrying as a definite turn-off. What else gets him bugged? "Facebook." Find a new obsession. Perhaps the theatre; some of his extracurricular activities include student theatre groups.

What sort of girl strikes his fancy? One who is smart, funny, talkative and ambitious so Hopkins gals need not fear. But especially in demand is someone who is "willing to support me while I stay home and write my novel." Looks like someone likes to practice what he preaches. The ideal date with this ambitious woman would involve starting off with

"cooking a big Italian meal and polish off a couple of bottles of wine with dinner. Then after a quick roll in the hay, head to the theater to see a musical. After the show, go for a walk, holding hands and talking about anything that pops into our heads. Finally, go home and fall asleep in each other's arms." An "awwwwww" is the only proper answer to that one. He's cocky too, when questioned about how soon after a first date is he likely to score, this charmer retorts "15 minutes."

Think this one's still your guy? Keep in mind that he confesses to be "a spectacular liar," so be extra smart. But when dealing with a boy as smooth as this one is, who wouldn't bend the rules?

Thanksgiving is around the corner, and with it comes turkey, stuffing, pumpkin pie and cutie-pies. Know someone who you think is hot, but might not want to take home to Mom? Let 'em know. E-mail JHUFeatures@hotmail.com

Modesty is sometimes the best policy, but not when you're dealing with this stunning 5 ft. 8 in. beauty. With her chocolate brown eyes and her "Burnt Sienna" hair, this delectable diva keeps herself busy with a long list of extracurriculars, which include among other things, volunteering, mentoring, editing an online medical journal and being both "Theta Girl" and "there for my best friends." A Grecian goddess, this one is!

After discovering her best quality of "making weird faces," get ready to rumble. Her ideal date would include "Playing football in the mud, then taking a hot bubble bath..."

Her worst characteristic seems to be fitting with the oddity of her best. "My toenails grow too quickly." Socks, shoes and clothing don't really seem to be a problem; listed as her biggest turn off was a simple

one word response: "Clothes." While you're getting naked, be sure to mark her favorite tunes to get her in the mood, namely, "The Ketchup Song." Bet you wish you had learned the line dance to that song.

How long after the first date will you be able to get in the tub with this sweetheart? "Unlike some people, I wait a day or two before I unleash the good stuff." A romantic at heart, she lists the most romantic thing she's ever had done for her as "When my boyfriend stole me away to see *The Phantom of the Opera* on Broadway." Utterly adorable!

Ask her for most embarrassing date story, and you'll get answer that can only be described as boastful. "Never had one. I'm just THAT GOOD." So how good must the one who this her heart be?

"He must be tall, smart talented and funny. He had to pitch for



- **INA SOH**
Hometown:
Los Gatos, C.A.
Major: Chemistry
Year: Junior

the JHU baseball team and his name has to be Greg Gotimer." Oh no! She's taken! What do you do now? How about reflect on the one that got away and hope that you are able to find someone else as awesome as she is.

FEATURES

Salt serves up a flavorful take on tavern dining

By CAREY POLIS
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Restaurants that only have one word in their title always seem to be making some kind of statement. Salt is no exception. It sits by itself in a residential downtown neighborhood, where parking is an endlessly frustrating hunt and nearby attractions are nonexistent. Still, Salt knows that it needs no tricks or gimmicks. It may be fairly upscale dining, but Salt still calls itself a tavern. It's a smart idea: non-pretentious coziness.

Space is a problem for Salt. Without a reservation system, people are practically spilling over onto the dining tables. Unless you get there early, expect to wait for a table. The bar and restaurant are not separated; our table was about two feet away from crowds of people sipping gimlets and waiting to be seated. There is simply no place to wait once the bar overflows. I ended up standing against a wall in a narrow entryway, avoiding water spraying from people depositing their umbrellas in buckets nearby.

The service attempted to make up for the tight quarters. The waiter knew the answer to any question we had and knew the right balance between attentiveness and leaving us to enjoy the meal.

After studying the awards displayed on the narrow entryway, we opted for the *foie gras* and Kobe beef slider, recent winner of *City Paper's* Best New Appetizer, as well as the duck fat french fries, because any restaurant that advertises something with "fat" in the title must be pretty confident in the taste. Typically, duck fat has less cholesterol and saturated fat than butter, but more than olive oil, which has no cholesterol. The slider was my first *foie gras* experience, and an enjoyable one at that. The rare beef was great as well, though I confess that I couldn't tell much difference between Kobe beef and non-Kobe beef. Alas, I suppose I will just

have to eat it again.

I normally would not use the word "phenomenal" to describe french fries, but these were no ordinary fried potato sticks. They had an addictive quality, as if the duck fat was laced with nicotine. I kept going for more and ignoring the fact that I still had an entire ahead. More impressive than the fries themselves were the three different aioli (mayonnaise-based) dipping sauces. The choices, malt vinegar, honey chipotle and white truffle, made me never want to use ketchup again.

The entrees (around \$20) are considerably less exotic than the appetizers, but are nevertheless very good. The oven roasted salmon filet sat perfectly atop potato gnocchi, lump crab and a fantastic yet not overpowering *beurre blanc* sauce. I must compliment the gnocchi; the outer texture was smooth and the potato insides had just the right amount of stickiness. The tomatoes accompanying the dish could have used a little seasoning.

The dish presentation epitomized Salt's goal; it was also clear that the chefs took time to not just create the food but also to perfect the look. All of the tableware was white, and everything was arranged simply yet elegantly.

Dessert was a simple circular molten and flourless chocolate cake with a slightly gooey inside and rich outside. After such satisfying appetizers and entrees, it is difficult to have room for more. Still, it's worth the push.

Though Salt should find a solution to parking and its cramped seating, one can only hope that other Baltimore restaurants will follow Salt's model: fine dining, sans ostentation.

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Salt's eclectic decor offers an exceptional atmosphere dominated only by the food.

Be adventurous and go tour Baltimore on wheels

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B4
and gave us local history about Fell himself, the Civil War and even real estate prices.

We drove through traffic on Broadway, as the early bar crowds gawked. While the mode of transportation is beyond fun, it is also beyond nerdy. Segway-ing through crowds downtown will afford you lots of pointing, laughs and weird looks. Do not attempt if you are not completely self-confident.

The tour season ends in a few weeks, and I could see why. It was too dark to see anything of note in the distance except the Domino Sugar sign, and the open air transport made us extremely cold.

When we arrived at the Inner Harbor, we were rewarded with a pretty view of Baltimore at night with the lights on the water. The tour guide gave us more interesting bits about Baltimore history, as he made his Segway pace as he was lecturing. We hung around for a bit, taking touristy pictures, and finally zipped back to the tour office at our top speed of 12.5 mph.

Though freezing, I was satisfied. I got to visit parts of the city I don't regularly see, learn some things and acquire a new, fun skill. If you're looking to get to know your city, or even if you're just looking to do figure-eights, a Segway tour is an entertaining (and quirky) option.

Grab the trend and go shop 'til you drop!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3
More mainstream brands basking in their own "tipping glory" are chain retailers Bebe and H&M.

While the former was once known as a mall-based Mecca for skanky club clothing, the company's new design team is insistent in taking the brand in a classier direction.

So, with style maven Mischa Barton at the helm of their fall/winter ad campaign, Bebe has produced a collection of sophisticated black dresses, classy elbow-high gloves and Louboutin-inspired heels. For such an affordable brand, the company has put out some very attractive garments.

Even more affordable than Bebe, is the ever-popular, oh-so-ubiquitous H&M, which has just released its latest collection that had been co-designed by über-avant-garde designers Viktor and Rolf.

While the average shopper may not be familiar with this German designing duo, the fashion world has long been infatuated with their edgy creations, characterized by rigidity, slightly-masculine women's clothing and slightly grandpa-like men's looks.

From Nov. 9 throughout the season, Viktor and Rolf for H&M is sure to be in high demand.

Whether you're a fashion addict on the prowl for the next major trend or simply looking for a method to reinvent your current style, the moment has never been more appropriate.

While new brands and themes are continuously cropping up in the fashion realm, rarely do we experience such a plentiful array of new entrants and creations, which are as innovative and accessible as those here and now.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The Barnstormers deliver with modern classic

Neil Simon's adaptation of a canonical Chekhov tale comes to life by showcasing dark Russian humor with smart performances by Hopkins undergraduates

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

The two actors fed off one another's strengths nicely, and their comic exchanges allowed Lipman to play his character to full comedic effect, as well as making him easy to sympathize with, instead of seeming whiny. The slow-motion sequence that takes place during this scene allowed all the characters to show their competency for physical comedy through their thoroughly enjoyable facial expressions and body motions.

At the conclusion of this scene, The Writer interrupts the action, reminding the audience that what they are seeing is merely the enactment of his imagination, giving an "alternative ending" for the audience members who may have been disappointed with the original, and establishing one of the show's running jokes and asserting The Writer's control over the play.

This was followed by "The Governess," a tragic tale in which the Governess (sophomore Elysha Chang) is cheated out of more than half her salary by her domineering mistress, (junior Julie Sihilling).

While both women were accomplished in these roles (they truly shine in their later roles), this section dragged the most out of the entire performance, mainly due to the topic it dealt with and to a lag in the script itself; this scene lacked the verbal spark that had driven the previous scene. The redeeming quality to this scene was the alternate ending provided by The Writer, yet again.

"Surgery" is where the play's title, *The Good Doctor* is derived; the village Sexton (junior Joseph Micali) has a dreadful toothache and the doctor is away. Instead, the Sexton must visit the novice medical student Kuryatin (junior Raffi Wartanian). Both actors play their characters bril-

liantly; Micali's Sexton provides the right amount of sanity to the craziness that Wartanian allows his character to possess. Again, the superb physical comedy is the reason this scene shines.

After "Surgery," the focus shifts back to The Writer for a brief waltz with a mop. Watching The Writer pantomime the courting of a woman not only provides for an amusing interlude, but creates a surprisingly poignant moment of insight into the life of this character.

This scene reaffirms that the entirety of the play is merely a playground for The Writer to create, think and imagine whatever he wishes. It also becomes increasingly clear that the Barnstormers merely wish to entertain their audiences.

After intermission (the performance is two-and-a-half hours), the second half of the performance focuses directly on the past experiences of The Writer, as opposed to a retelling of his short stories. "The Drowning" explores the topic of suicide, beginning with the audience entering The Writer's study as he



Juniors Margaret Deli and Joseph Micali deliver a physical performance in "A Defenseless Creature," one of *The Good Doctor's* many funny vignettes.

wraps a noose around his neck, and his quick assurances that he didn't mean it.

The scene then continues to tell of the instance in which The Writer is approached by the Sailor (Wartanian) for the opportunity to see him drown himself. The comedy arises from the preposterousness of the situation; paying to see a man pretend to drown. Wartanian shines in this role, taking every voice inflection and gesture to the extreme, to fantastic results.

"The Audition" is perhaps one of the more serious moments. Sophomore Holly Caracappa gives a moving performance as an amateur actress auditioning for The Writer. Moving easily from the over-enthusiased hopeful to the serious actress, Caracappa is able through this portion to prove her own versatility as an actress. Her passionate monologue nearly moves the audience to tears and she personifies the various characters in her

speech.

At the finish of her scene, the audience was silent; Kasten graciously ended the scene with reverence to Caracappa's performance without his usual comic flourish.

The final three chapters, "A Defenseless Creature," "The Arrangement" and "The Writer" brought the events of the night to a close. "A Defenseless Creature" introduced the craziness of the play's first half back into the second.

Junior Margaret Deli's Woman was hilarious as a wife trying to right the wrongs done by her husband, while Micali's role as the tortured Kistunov provided a nice contrast to the vivacity with which Deli approached her role.

"The Arrangement" dealt with a more awkward recollection of The Writer; his father's (Morse) attempt to make his son a man by introducing him to the ways of love through the enlist-

ment of a hooker (Girl, played by Sihilling). The genuine awkwardness of the situation was employed beautifully to comedic ends. "The Writer" concludes the night successfully, with the resolution of all the various story threads.

Most definitely an ambitious project, the Barnstormers pulled it off well, resulting in a performance that amused the audience while making it think. The amount of work required to bring *The Good Doctor* to fruition is obvious to all who attend and the cast and crew should be commended for their labors. An enjoyable romp, *The Good Doctor* is well worth taking a study break.

The Barnstormers' *"The Good Doctor"* by Neil Simon will be performed at the Swirnow Theater on Friday, Nov. 10 to Saturday, Nov. 11 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 11 at 2 p.m. For more information please visit the Web site at <http://www.jhubarnstormers.org>.

Ken Oak Band brings Asian flavor to cello-based sound

By ERIC CHUNG

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Ken Oak asked to make sure his stir-fry included rice. He looked at me as if to say, "Yeah, I know, I'm Asian." We sat in front of the gelato bar at Nolan's on 33rd. I jokingly asked him how it was and shockingly enough, he replied, "Not bad." Ed Gorski who was on stage quickly put his acoustic down and nabbed a bite, "Hey, someone get me one too!" The two make up the cello rock group Ken Oak Band. They liked the food here, last Saturday, at Charles Commons.

Everything in this world changes, and Ken Oak Band is no different. Some of these changes involved the loss of members and others have arrived the creative process and new fans. Change has been good for Ken Oak Band as they are on their third national tour while having hopes of Europe and Asia. Their new album, *Vienna To Venice*, released last month, features a song that appeared on a previous recording. "It's a song we like but that album is out of print now. We rearranged it on the new CD for our new fans," Ken said.

So, what is cello rock? Well, the cello component was brought to the band by Ken Oak, a Korean-American musician who was trained in classical music. At one point in his life he was in an orchestra. However, after high school, things changed. "After that, I started picking up guitar and just did that for a while. Then I met Ed two years ago and started the band with me on cello," Ken explained. The rocking-out component is done by both of them — most visibly seen in Ed's elastic expressions while he's on

stage.

"Working with a cellist is great, the sound it makes, it's like waves coming in and out — it does something to the time," Ed replied when asked about Ken's choice of instrument. Today it's only a guitar, a cello and a pair of voices that make up their sound. "It's hard sometimes without a drummer..." Ed said. "Yeah, you just have to count A LOT! And when Ed makes that scrunched up face, it means he's trying hard to not screw up," Ken joked. Not only

The rocking out component is done by both of them — most visibly seen in Ed's elastic expressions while he's on stage.

does Ken Oak Band rock out with classical instruments but they're full of fun and a chill duo to hang out with.

"I can give you a name for every song we've written," Ed said of

their first completely co-written album, *Vienna To Venice*. Before, they had other members, but now it's just Ed and Ken and they've successfully combined their new ideas with old ones to create a balanced sound. "We're open to lots of ideas, sometimes experimental, especially with the way I play cello, but not all our songs are about love or romance." For example, *Hey Andrew* is about Ed's grandfather who recently passed away. They told me that interactions with people are the things in life that move you the most. Sometimes they write about life in general but more often than not, it's about different kinds of relationships with people, love, friends, family and others.

Bringing these ideas with them on their third tour has been long for them. The two have been hitting many colleges other than Hopkins. "Sometimes it's tough at colleges because we don't have

CONTINUED ON PAGE B7

Stones Throw crew, including Madlib, hits Sonar

By MARK MEHLINGER

The John Hopkins News-Letter

The Beat Konducta, DJ Rels, Quasimoto and Yesterday's New Quintet are all listed as different artists on the roster of Southern California's Stones Throw Records.

The Beat Konducta, a hip-hop producer, makes beats that cover a wide range of styles, from abstract and experimental to soulful and catchy. DJ Rels, a faceless electronic producer, is known for his eclectic broken beats, typically heard on the underground dance scenes of West London

and Berlin. Quasimoto, a blazed-out social outcast, raps about his adventures escaping racist police in a never-ending quest for more cash and women in his trademark electronically altered high-pitched voice. Lastly, Yesterday's New Quintet, a modern jazz group, plays their own versions of songs from some of the greatest artists of the past including the innovative Brazilian jazz-funk group, Azymuth, and R&B legend Stevie Wonder, all in a unique laid-back style, composed of fender-rhodes, moog synths and swift drum beats.

While Stones Throw may have

a motley assortment of artists under its belt, all of these artists have one thing in common. They are all the same person: Madlib. Additionally a DJ, MC (in his natural voice), and composing half of Jaylib and half of Madvillain, Madlib has become one of the most productive and diverse artists of today. Although his work schedule may make him seem like a machine, Madlib is well known for his free-flowing style exhibited in all of his music. Often compared to the intergalactic jazz wonder of the 1970s, Sun Ra, Madlib draws a number of his influences from the fusion jazz

of the era, known for its innovative styles frequently linked with concepts of utopia, peace and outer space. But the vast scope of music attributed to Madlib could never be classified into select categories. A dedicated crate-digger, Madlib has an extensive library of rare and eclectic music that spans all time and place where vinyl records have existed. His famed studio, a 1950s bomb shelter, is home to much of this collection. As a DJ, Madlib has produced a number of compilations that give evidence of the most unique musical styles he has unearthed. Albums such as the "Mind Fusion" series, a reggae mix entitled "Blunted in the Bomb Shelter," and his Blue Note debut, "Shades of Blue," a remix project combining Madlib's skills as a DJ and electronic producer all highlight the various types of music that he enjoys and is influenced by. All the while, he stays out of the public eye. It is all but impossible to hear his music on the radio. As stated in an interview, Madlib claims that he makes music strictly for himself, not for money or anyone else. It just happens by coincidence that other people like it. Despite his underground dwellings, Madlib has a world-wide fan base, and now can often be heard on Cartoon Network's Adult Swim among label mates like MF Doom and the late J-Dilla. Although he is not one to bask in praise, it is safe to say that Madlib is truly a musical extraordinaire, who is not paralleled by many.

This past Sunday, Madlib, Stones Throw creator and DJ, Peanut Butter Wolf, MC Percee P and DJ J Rocc performed the last leg of the world-wide Chrome Children Tour, a joint project with Adult Swim, at

CONTINUED ON PAGE B8



Madlib of Stones Throw Records, one of the most diverse musicians working today, performed at Sonar last Sunday night.

Indie band embodies live show

By SAMUEL MESSING

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Last Monday night, Broken Social Scene, in one of its many lineups, graced the stage of Sonar. To start the concert, only a few of the touring members came out. As the show continued and the band played more songs, more members of the band came on the stage, a testament to the variety of structure and style the band's songs can take.

The band's music is particularly well suited for live shows; their songs are filled with overlapping guitar riffs and vocal harmonies, making each song seem almost as big as the group itself (the group has had a total of 20 members to date). Since the band's inception, its music has lent itself to the introduction of additional harmony and vocal parts, allowing the ever-changing roster more than enough space to make each song fit the current lineup.

Broken Social Scene was originally created by members Kevin Drew and Brendan Canning, who released the band's debut album, *Feel Good Lost* (2001, Arts & Crafts). This debut album is entirely instrumental, and more often than not fairly ambient, filled with quietly repeating loops. Drew and Canning found the album somewhat difficult to perform live, as each of the songs' structures change very slowly, and so enlisted the help of their friends Andrew Whiteman, Jason Collett, Metric's Emily Haines and Leslie Feist to develop the songs and add lyrics. The band grew over time to also include James Shaw, Evan Cranley, Justin Peroff, John Crossingham and Stars' Amy Milan. With this lineup the band recorded and released its sophomore album, *You Forgot It In People* (2002, Arts & Crafts), which received a lot of publicity. Since then the band has released two more albums, *Bee Hives* (2003, Arts & Crafts), and the self-titled *Broken Social Scene* CONTINUED ON PAGE B8

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Enjoy Borat's sick humor while it lasts

By XIAO-BO YUAN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Enjoy Borat while you can, because the cutting-edge cache of this dim-witted, sex-obsessed and astonishingly hirsute "Kazakh journalist" is going to last about 15 more minutes.

This is not due to any fault of Sacha Baron Cohen, his intrepid creator, or of his movie, *Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan*. But imagine, if you will, the fraternity brother across the street who, at this very moment, is reaching into his mini-fridge for a Coors Light and punctuating the occasion by screeching, "Niiiiiice! I like you!" It is these, and the millions of others clinging to Borat's every accented catchphrase, who will soon reduce Baron Cohen's character to a punch-line. Which is a pity, because *Borat* provides some of the sharpest comedy to hit the mainstream in recent memory. Much like Baron Cohen's other outrageous characters, Borat traffics in a peculiar species of laughter that might best be called Cringe Comedy. With his stranger-in-a-strange-land routine, Borat says and does what most socialized people would never dream of doing, and in the process, provides a few glimpses of ludicrous human behavior that bruise your conscience as much as they tickle your funny bone.

Borat began as a minor character on *Da Ali G Show*, and besides the addition of a loose narrative, his first feature film does little

to stray from his familiar routine. The basic formula of an encounter with Borat goes as follows: Borat attempts to learn about a cultural practice by engaging in it first-hand. His essential "foreignness" — and fondness for pornography and casual anti-Semitism — lands him in hot water with the unsuspecting subject. Uncomfortable squirming follows.

Despite a limited formula, expanding Borat from a 15-minute sketch character to the star of a full-length movie proves surprisingly successful.

This is because, in some respects, *Borat* plays like an old-fashioned road-trip movie. He begins as a hapless TV journalist from Kazakhstan who sets out for New York City to make a documentary about America. After becoming enamored with the chesty actress Pamela Anderson, Borat bumbles from one end of the country to another in pursuit



A patriotic Borat (Sacha Baron Cohen) mangles "The Star-Spangled Banner" for a shocked crowd at a rodeo. COURTESY OF TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

of her, dragging along his reluctant and even more amazingly hairy producer, Azamat.

Their adventures in the American South provide for the film's biggest laughs and eeriest chills. It's hard to keep a straight face when Borat shocks a table full of etiquette experts in Alabama with a napkin-full of his own feces. But a viewer's reactions can veer more toward outright horror when he encounters a rodeo manager who openly advocates

killing homosexuals or a gun-shop owner who doesn't hesitate when asked to recommend the best weapon for shooting Jews.

As a performer, Baron Cohen's greatest virtue is his fearlessness (not to mention his amazing propensity for growing luxuriant moustaches). But it is this same fearlessness that lends the movie its most uncomfortable moments. More uneasiness enters the equation when you consider the apparently quasi-legal consent of the film's subjects. While the idiotic Ali G focused most of his energies on humiliating public figures, one can't help but wonder if Borat's regular-Joe targets are a bit too easy to hit.

But if Baron Cohen is partly aiming to produce a film of biting social satire, he thankfully never loses sight of his own clownishness. Just when the film is at its most bruising, Baron Cohen whips together an extended male-nude-wrestling scene that can only be justly described as a piece of cinematic history. It proves that, while *Borat* is certainly more than its catchphrases, it's not above the cheap laughs.

because it's interesting to him as a literary expert. Emma Thompson's portrayal of an author with writer's block trying to find new ways of killing her main character, is a shocking view into the mind of a writer — she imagines herself leaping off tall buildings and slamming a car into a river.

Finally the oddball and on/off relationship with Harold and Anna sparks an interesting tension and possibility in Harold's life; she, being the magnetic opposite of Harold, makes us think of possibility.

Stranger Than Fiction is a movie that is masterfully constructed with great cinematography, writing, visual effects and characters that make it a movie worth watching. If you're a fan of Will Ferrell, even if you're uncertain of the darker role he plays, it's something to watch with a significant other. It would be nice to have a narrator tell us that we only have so long to live — maybe then we'll get off our lazy asses, maybe our eyes will be opened.

Ferrell takes a semi-serious role in Fiction

By ERIC CHUNG
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

They'd know how many steps there are in front of Gilman. They'd know how fast and how many strides you'd have to take from McCoy to get to your lecture at 11 a.m. They'd know how many words you've written when you take notes. They know numbers — their lives are numbers. There is nothing more important than counting in the life of an IRS auditor. Harold Crick is one of them.

In Will Ferrell's latest movie, *Stranger Than Fiction*, he plays an IRS auditor by the name of Harold Crick. It's a serious role — auditors don't kid around; they audit your ass.

Harold Crick does not stick out in a crowd; he's just methodical and his mind is wired to leave little room for creativity. He files reports, crunches complex multiplication in his head and looks through boxes of receipts. Yes, he's just straight out boring. Then suddenly, he hears a voice in his head.

The voice (Emma Thompson, *Prisoners of Azkaban*, *Love Actually*) is narrating his every action as if Harold was a part of some story. The British-accented female voice describes his inner thoughts, surroundings and what Harold is doing with haunting precision. She's real, she's sitting in her home typing away without a clue that Harold is real. Obviously, when Harold hears that he's going to die, he believes it.

The movie, in short, is about the strings of fate and taking control of the reins life. After hearing this distressing news, he seeks out help from a literary professor played by Dustin Hoffman. With his help, Harold embarks on a journey to find his death while the author is busy coming up with ways to kill him.

It's about that there needs to be something in your life that you live for, some passion, some force or idea that drives the soul to take a step, take a risk and just live life fruitfully all while pursuing dreams. Harold has none and figures out a way to accomplish this while coming to terms with his imminent death.

Harold is busy auditing a small coffee shop/bakery run by a spunky woman, Anna Pascal (Maggie Gyllenhaal, *Mona Lisa Smile*, *Donnie Darko*) who purposeful makes his life harder — her files are disorganized and a huge mess in a cardboard box. Harold acts coldly and oddly when around her as he has not interacted with many women before — auditors don't get laid. However, many things in Harold's life begin to change when he realizes

his death is imminent.

In a race to find the author and his death, at the same time, Harold is unknowingly racing against himself to turn his life into something that means something.

Is life already written out on pieces of paper or does each of us have pens in our hands waiting to write the next sentence? Does one spontaneously fall in love or are we just following a predetermined path and just pretending to look into their eyes for the first time?

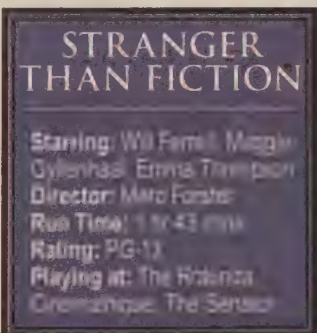
Obviously, the movie is packed with ideas that are fit to be thrown into a classroom full of hungry philosophers and be discussed upon for many hours. Does Will Ferrell fit this role? How can he not be funny? Do not be disappointed!

Although this movie is unlike any movie in which Will Ferrell has ever acted, there are laughs embedded within the masking severity of the overarching themes of the movie. The idea of a boring-as-hell auditor going apes over a voice in his head is funny enough. It's a tragic-comedy.

Supporting roles also do a very good job at adding to the lightness that breaks up the long tension and also to creating gravity that drags the heart and soul closer to the ground. Dustin Hoffman (as seen in *Meet the Fockers*), can be a funny guy — a peculiar professor crossing out a list of possible stories that Harold might be living, including being Gollum and Frankenstein, in an almost apathetic disposition, only



Will Ferrell plays an annered Harold Crick whose life is being narrated by a novelist. COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.ALLMOVIEPHOTO.COM



Cello band rocks Charles Commons

Continued from Page B6
the audience's full attention — kids are doing work and what-not," Ken said. I too was thinking about doing work down listening but I realized that it would be unfair to those on stage pouring their soul into the stories that they have woven so carefully.

Their performance was full of a somber air while Ken sang heartfelt lyrics, pulling his bow across the strings of his cello, his left hand gently wrapped around it's neck, and Ed strumming away while arching back slightly and tapping his foot, deeply immersed in the waves of the cello and music, but this was broken up by their comedic routines in between. Ken played a portion of "May the Force Be With You," a song from *Star Wars* as he led into one of their own. Well, I think I was the only one laughing — so much for being a nerd.

Before "Hey Andrew," Ed joked, "Even though Ken's never met my grandfather, he feels cares deeply for some odd reason," adding lightness to the air. "Saw a picture of him once," Ken added. They created the perfect balance between heavy and light as they had created in their new album and hopefully in the successful career that is ahead of them

New Vibrations

Meat Loaf
Bat Out of Hell
III: The Monster
is Loose
Virgin
Oct. 31, 2006



The long awaited third and final album of Meat Loaf's *Bat Out of Hell* trilogy makes his previous albums seem meek and passive. This third album is entitled *Bat out of Hell III: The Monster is Loose* because apparently somewhere in the album there is a back-story that I must have missed. How can one possibly notice a narrative when Meat Loaf's characteristic overwrought and melodramatic melodies and vocals are not only present, but seem to be on steroids?

The album resorts to the type of grandiose theatricality that would have been a hit single... 20 years ago. Yet when one listens to *Bat out of Hell III: The Monster is Loose*, one expects this sort of Gothic intensity to pervade the album. This attitude is certainly present in many of the songs, especially "Blind as a Bat" and "Monstro" with their sweeping

orchestration that seem to be part of *The Phantom of the Opera*.

Nearly every song possesses the same basic build-up, replete with Meat Loaf's urgent vocalizations, soaring guitar riffs, a choir and of course omnipresent violins. Even die-hard fans of the Loaf will be disappointed. The extremely polished editing job that went into this 2006 album will inevitably be devoid of the sort of rawness of his earlier work. Still here, however, are the gut-wrenching and heartfelt vocals of the singer who has been going at it for more than 30 years.

Yet the album's final song, a new version of his classic "I Would Do Anything for Love (But I Won't Do That)" may satisfy even the most faithful fans of the seemingly ever-lasting Meat Loaf.

— Alex Traum

The Evens
Get Evens
Dischord Records
Oct. 31, 2006



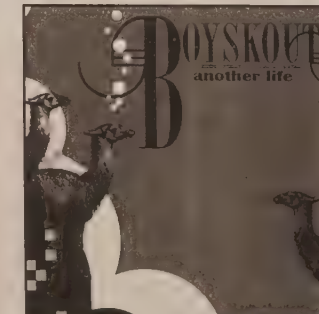
If you grew up listening to classic American hardcore and punk rock, then this is an interesting time to be listening to a band like the Evens. Fans of the genre should be no stranger to the band Minor Threat, an influential punk band that was based out of Washington D.C., headed by Ian MacKaye. MacKaye was best known in the 1980s for his involvement with Minor Threat, was later known throughout the 1990s for being the front man for Fugazi, and now in this decade he is making his name through the Evens. It's an interesting progression to take notice of, as the sonic qualities may have gradually changed over the years, but his politics have never been shaken.

It's only appropriate for a musician who has worked his whole life based out of the nation's capitol to construct songs revolving around social and political critiques. *Get Evens* is the Evens' second album, with MacKaye on guitar and vocals and Amy Farina on drums and vocals, building upon the stripped-

down punk-folk they established with their first self-titled album. The sound is very raw, featuring very little in-studio indulgences and creating a very down-to-earth listen. This isn't a problem, though, since both MacKaye and Farina are very accomplished musicians. Neither vocalist has a particularly great voice, but they get the job done in a very distinct and pleasing way. The focus then comes on the lyrics and the punk-rock aesthetic of the songs. Songs like "Pushed against a wall" and "Dinner with the President" centralize around the theme of political and social corruption, but in a very mature and artful way that never becomes too forced or trite. Given the current political climate, it's definitely an interesting listen, at least worth kicking back and checking out on a low-key day.

—William Parschalk

Boyskout
Another Life
Three Ring Records
Oct. 17, 2006



Can a CD be judged by its cover? When the promo I picked out of the Arts Section mailbox necessitates being plastered with a large enough label to include comparisons to names as big as Gary Numan, Wire, the Wedding Present and the freakin' Cure, I'd say that there's a good indication of everything the disc inside is probably lacking.

Alright, so *Another Life* is not as hilariously terrible as I was hoping based on the grammatical peculiarity (and gender-bending) of the band name and the promo shot of the girls wearing enough eye-makeup to better embody the likes of Saint Lucy or a clued-up Oedipus. But I fail to understand why anyone should be listening to Boyskout when used Lush and Elastica CDs are available on eBay for under a dollar. (Seriously, if you like this band, go listen to Lush's *Split*.) As for the aforementioned comparisons, I'm still waiting for the direct, pulsing drive and cold insistence of Tubeway Army and the tense unpredictability of Gedge's vocals in the Wedding Present to take hold. It says I'm supposed to pay close attention to tracks 1, 3 and 9. OK, maybe I'll find them there.

"Spotlight." Circular, meaning some about nothing im-

portant over a catchy, melodic bass line (the only somewhat saving quality throughout the album). Satterfield's vocals fall flat to the point of sincerely genuine indifference — I didn't know that was possible.

"Fantastic." *Seventeen Seconds*, lobotomized. Boyskout — or their management — want us to know they think the Cure are really good, but even in a Cure-alike competition they don't hold a candle to restraining-order-worthy The Essence (perhaps the auditory embodiment of Robert Smith fan-fiction, this band can provide a morbidly fascinating listening experience if you're up for it).

"The Model." The back of the CD promises a Kraftwerk cover, but they fail to warn us of its deathly lukewarm mediocrity.

File this one under the same sort of banal, washed-out, would-be post-punk crap alongside Interpol, Longwave and the Stills. But that shouldn't come as a surprise. In fact, I doubt even fans of those bands would be easily sold by *Another Life*. And yes, I did listen to the whole thing. And no, it won't happen again.

— Emily Romanini

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The News-Letter talks to Bale about new role

By KATHERINE BREWER
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Seasoned actor Christian Bale compares himself to Jim Davis, the character he is playing in his most recent movie, the independent *Harsh Times*: "We're both shape-shifters."

In fact, Bale has made a reputation for himself in the movie business for being able to take on almost any role. Although he is British, he took on two different kinds of American icons when he played Batman, in *Batman Begins*, and Patrick Bateman from *American Psycho*. He lost over 40 pounds for 2004's *The Machinist*.

In *Harsh Times*, Bale played a hoodlum in east L.A. The *News-Letter* interviewed Christian Bale

by phone on Thursday night.

News-Letter: You're known for taking on difficult roles that include different accents and weight gain and loss. How did you prepare for this movie?

Christian Bale: For the ranger training I really fancied doing that to see if I could. But, it would have been completely unnecessary. I prepared by spending a lot of time with Dave [Ayer, the director] and his friends and east L.A. We had a 24-day hectic shoot.

The story is inspired by Dave and his friends, so I just spent a lot of time with him. Jim found his value as a soldier, which makes him lethal in east L.A.

And there was body language, verbal language of the military to adopt. You do that in the same way as with any role. You know, living and breathing it. You don't have to be a real deal to spot a fraud. You just have to do it until it becomes second nature.

N-L: What do you like about the script and working with Dave Ayer?

CB: It's very personal. [Jim is] a prick but at the same time someone I would like a lot in spite of himself. He's probably going to do nothing but bring bad to you. He has, to me, a whole lot of substance and a whole lot of heart. The piece has a whole lot of momentum to it, like a roller-coaster ride with a sudden stop at the end. There are just certain scripts that you read that just stick with you.

N-L: Why did the film take so long to be made?

CB: My first meeting with Dave was going to be a short one but it lasted five hours and there were broken glasses in the bar afterwards. By the time I met him it was going to be a studio movie and they had certain people they wanted and I wasn't on that list. Then I contacted him while I was filming *Batman* and Dave decided he was just going to finance it himself. I thought that was really great, it shows how much he cared.

N-L: Were you able to draw from personal experience with Dave?

CB: Jim is a foster child of the Chicano culture. I had to immerse myself in the culture. I don't like bringing myself to a character. I can relate to parts of it or relate to him in less extreme degrees. The thing between me and Jim basically is the shape shifter ability. To be able to fool people into believing you are something you're not.

N-L: What kind of person do you think will see this movie?

CB: All I can say is me. I was drawn to this type of movie. I think we did it very well and I think Dave has done a fantastic job with it and beyond that I have no clue. I'm not in marketing, I think it would be really dishonest to approach movies that way. What's the demographic?

I hope other people see in it what I saw, which is a very layered movie. Jim is a very interesting, intriguing and engaging character ... not someone you want to spend too much time with, but someone you want to hear about. I find him to be very bloody funny. But also interesting, he teaches that, the consequences of your actions becomes more deadly the more capable you become.

N-L: What was it like filming in Mexico and L.A.

CB: Everything is the real deal, except for me basically. (laughs) [There is] something about shooting on location that just adds that reality that just helps in every aspect of it. If you've seen the movie you know there is a fiesta scene in it. We created that fiesta, we invited everyone from the town and there was free food and drink.

N-L: What statement is *Harsh Times* making?

CB: That's for the viewer to decide. In my mind it ain't for the person making the movie or writing the book or painting the picture to tell people what you should be getting from it. You get what you get from it. My job is to create a character and that's it. And beyond that its kind of a cheat to tell people what I was trying to do. Either you get it or you don't.

N-L: Since Dave was the inspiration for the movie, did he ever tell you that you weren't playing it correctly?

CB: (laughs) No we had enough time ahead of time to sit and watch. Dave was the foundation, but I wasn't doing any type of imitation. Dave's life is very much in the Chicano culture, and he has a military background but it wasn't a biopic. It was inspired by him but that's it.

It just took hanging out, you know, drinking, driving around on the streets. This was a labor of love. I'm not just speaking just for myself, but for everyone else. We had a partnership. No one was there for a check because there weren't any really any check.



MARK MEHLINGER/NEWS-LETTER

Stacy Epps sings over unreleased Madvillain beats on the Chrome Children Tour.

Show not fazed by a small Sunday crowd

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B6

the Sonar Lounge. Guest appearances were made by Koushik, Aloe Blacc, Stacy Epps, MED a.k.a. Medaphoar and Guilty Simpson. Although all in attendance were extremely enthusiastic to see the Stones Throw crew, their numbers were surprisingly low. Despite a small audience, the crew was eager to give their fans a worthy show. With a layout featuring a number of artistic posters and Adult Swim-style animation playing on a large projector screen, the stage setup was aesthetically pleasing.

The night started off with downbeat producer Koushik. Following this performance was MC/singer Aloe Blacc. Fellow Oxnard, Calif. native and Madlib's longtime friend, MED a.k.a. Medaphoar performed a number of tracks from his most recent album, *Push Comes To Shove*. Additionally he performed the new single "Jungle Love" off of the late J-Dilla's, *The Shining* LP alongside Guilty Simpson. Proving to be the most technologically innovative of the crew, PB Wolf's following performance was not only an auditory one but visual as well. With his turntables synched up to a computer, PB Wolf's old school hip-hop video lineup incorporated visual scratches and spins on the large projector screen.

After a trip back to the "Gold-

en Era" of hip-hop, the night's main mic controller, J Rocc, brought Madlib onstage with a boom. Performing numerous hits from Jaylib's "Champion Sound," Quasimoto's "The Unseen" and "The Further Adventures," Madlib was received by the audience with overwhelming excitement. His style onstage was no different than that of his music, free-flowing and without restrictions. Many times, Madlib assumed the role of various characters within his music and often switched sides on the mic, as if he were talking to himself.

The show was full of tributes to the late Stones Throw hip-hop producer J-Dilla, as he produced a number of the tracks rapped and sung on by almost everyone on the lineup. It was pleasing to see that the Stones Throw crew was not overly concerned with rallying energy from the crowd, as common in most hip-hop shows.

Instead, after Madlib's performance, the crew came together and rapped in a loose tag-team style over various unreleased J-Dilla beats. Sunday's show was like a breath of fresh air in comparison to the commonly over-hyped hip-hop show. Emphasizing free-flow and form, the Stones Throw crew's natural style combined with innovative art and technology created an ideal atmosphere for listening to original music.

Broken Social Scene comes to Sonar

The full lineup of this premier indie band shows up and gives a stunning live performance

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B6

(2005, Arts & Crafts), the latter winning the Alternative Album of the Year Award at the Juno Awards.

During their performance this past Monday, the band mainly stuck to songs off of their two most popular albums, *Feel Good Lost* and *Broken Social Scene*. To transition between songs, the band improvised short sections filled with loud distorted guitar riffs, fast drum patterns and random vocalization.

The crowd's response to these improvised sections was lukewarm, but as soon as one of the musicians played a recognizable phrase, such as the opening guitar line to "Almost Crimes," the band's first single from *You Forgot It In People*, the audience would erupt in applause and cheers.

Some of the most impressive songs performed were the slower, less intense songs, such as "Anthems for a Seventeen Year Old Girl." The song itself is very repetitive, reminiscent of songs off of the bands debut album, building slowly until climax. Even the songs lyrics are repeated over and over ("Park that car / drop that phone / sleep on the floor / dream about me"). The song's vocal part was sung by Lisa Lobsinger, while Kevin Drew changed the effects on her microphone to give the illusion of several distorted voices.

The other members of the band waited off stage until their part was introduced and, walked on stage to join the group. By the

song's climax, the entire band was back on stage.

The band finished their set with "KC Accidental," the second song on *You Forgot It In People*. The song features a fast drum part over a melodic guitar line, played on Monday by three different guitarists.

The song staggers back and forth between the hard-hitting

drum pattern and a more rubato section, where the melody line is restated. After the band repeated this staggered form several times, the entire band dropped out and left Kevin Drew to sing out the first few lines of the song with the help of almost every audience member.

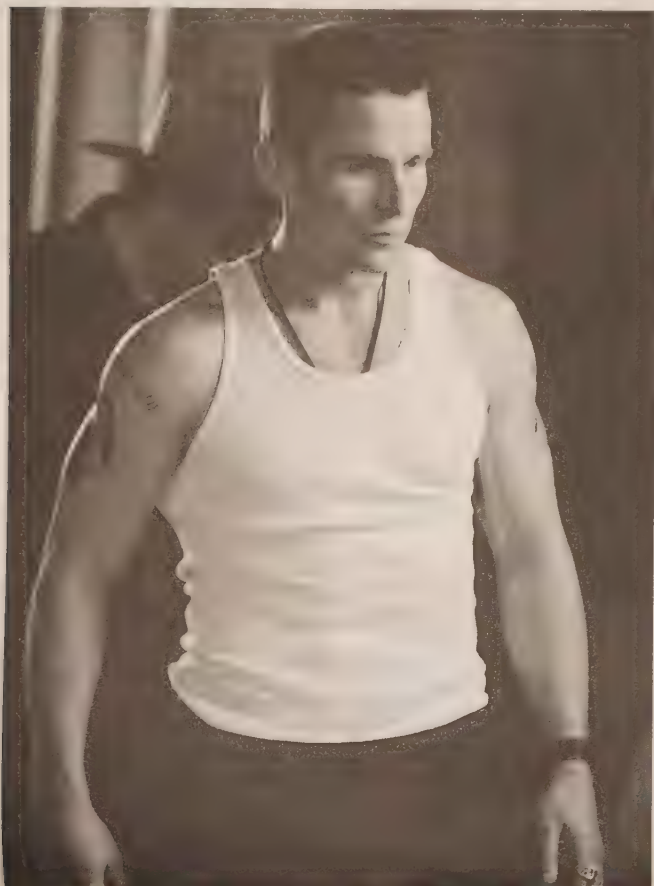
From the first chord to the last, Broken Social Scene delivered a powerful performance, making sure the audience got its money's worth. The set

was much longer than usual, with the show ending well past midnight. All of the songs, especially the ones of the bands newest album, *Broken Social Scene*, proved even better live than they are in the studio. The size as well as the variety of the band's music insures the band's ability to move in whatever direction the audience pushes them.



COURTESY OF SAMUEL MESSING

Lobsinger provided vocals for Broken Social Scene at Sonar.



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Actor Christian Bale stars in the new film, *Harsh Times*, coming to theaters soon.




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CARTOONS, ETC.


your horoscope




Aries: (March 21 - April 19)
With that smile on your face, you look like you just saw a woman's "area" for the first time. Oh wait, that was just a wolverine's rectum.




Taurus: (April 20 - May 20)
Elections are kind of like going to a retarded donkey auction. You have to pick one ass or another, but either way — they're retarded.




Gemini: (May 21 - June 20)
Over this week, a horoscope will predict what's going to happen to you this week. It'll be confusing at first, but trust me — it's going to happen.




Cancer: (June 21 - July 22)
You really ought to stop "undressing" the girls outside your window with that high-powered telescopic lens of yours. Kidnap them instead!




Leo: (July 23 - Aug. 22)
Can a semi-evolved humanoid really kill a man with his claws? Of course not. It's his untamed, extra-sharp back hair that's dangerous.




Virgo: (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)
Go down to the port and get yourself some delicious fresh fish! And if that doesn't work, go down the block and get some VAGINA!!!!!!!




Libra: (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)
Back to that last horoscope, we apologize if you already have a vagina. Not because it wasn't funny, but because you have a VAGINA!!!!!!!!!!!!




Scorpio: (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)
To stay safe in bad parts of the city, get a large group of friends to go places with you. Then start KICKING SOME ASS. YEAH!




Sagittarius: (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
Stalking is not exactly the healthiest form of exercise. It's even worse when the object of your obsession is slow as balls. Geez, man, pick up the pace!



Capricorn: (Dec. 23 - Jan. 19)
People really need to learn to respect women better. You try popping that greasy little bowling ball out your body. Specifically your VAGINA!!!!!!



Aquarius: (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
With new advances in science, men could theoretically die out and the human race could live on. Too bad men are too dumb to die.



Pisces: (Feb. 19 - March 20)
Vaginas have been an essential part of this week's horoscopes, and we hope you realize that it's all been in jest. After all, VAGINA!!!!!!!!!!!!

Toad Detective

by Matt Hansen



Doctor Love makes house calls

Dear Dr. Love,
I am a graduate student majoring in advanced sexuality studies at a small liberal arts college in the Northeast. My professor brought up the issue of postmodern sex. While I am very familiar with modernist sex, I have yet to come across an instance of post-modern sex. Could you shed some light on this subject?

-Paul B.

Dear Paul,
That's an excellent question. Postmodern sex was first pioneered in the Experimental Sexuality Laboratory of Wesleyan University, circa 1986. As with anything postmodern, this form of sex is a highly self-referential exercise. That is to say: postmodern sex is "sex about sex."

One time at Wesleyan, my professor had postmodern sex for three weeks straight. He said it was like making love inside the Event Horizon of a supersymmetric black hole. Now he can read minds.

Dear Dr. Love,
I've been really bored lately, so I've been thinking about getting gay married. My parents are against it, though, as is my wife. What's your opinion on gay marriage? Should it be legal?

-Sam F.

Dear Sam,
Thanks for writing in. I don't think gay marriage should be legal; it is extremely dangerous and has a significant potential for addiction and abuse. A friend of mine (who we will here refer to as "Todd") had a severe gay marriage problem. Todd was getting gay married several times a week, sometimes even multiple times in one day. I tried to tell Todd that he was getting carried

away, that perhaps he was letting gay marriage control his life. However, Todd was in denial. "I can stop whenever I want," said Todd. "I don't NEED gay marriage." But the downward spiral continued. We ended up having to stage an intervention. It got pretty ugly, but Todd is finally on the long path to recovery. So let this be a lesson to all of you: gay marriage can ruin your life. "Oh," you say, "I'm only going to get gay married once, it's not a big deal." Don't be so sure. Gay marriage can kill you the first

Matt Diamond
One Fry Short

time you try it.

Dear Dr. Love,
I've been in a relationship with an amazing girl for the last six months. Now she wants me to come home with her for Thanksgiving and meet her family. Also, her family lives in North Dakota, and it's really cold there. Should I just break up with her?

-Dan K.

Dear Dan,
I understand your concern. North Dakota is very north, in every sense of the word. I personally will not date a woman above a certain latitude, which restricts my prospects to a small band of earth surrounding the equator. However, you've already been dating this girl for six months, which is enough time to have two-thirds of a baby, and that's a significant chunk of baby. Don't give up yet.

When meeting this girl's family, try to project a positive self-image. If you have nipple rings,

this is not the time to show them off. Same goes for stigmata. You need to make it clear to these people that their daughter is having sex with someone respectable. I would recommend growing some sort of beard. People respect a man with a beard. Santa Clause and Hitler: Which one had a beard?

Dear Dr. Love,
Hey, I'm the bassist for this band called Interpol. I think my bandmates may have been sending you strange letters. Paul's been talking about some weird stuff lately, like his obsession with getting oral sex from deep-sea divers. What a loser. Anyway, here's my question: do you have any good advice for making a sex tape?

-Carlos D.

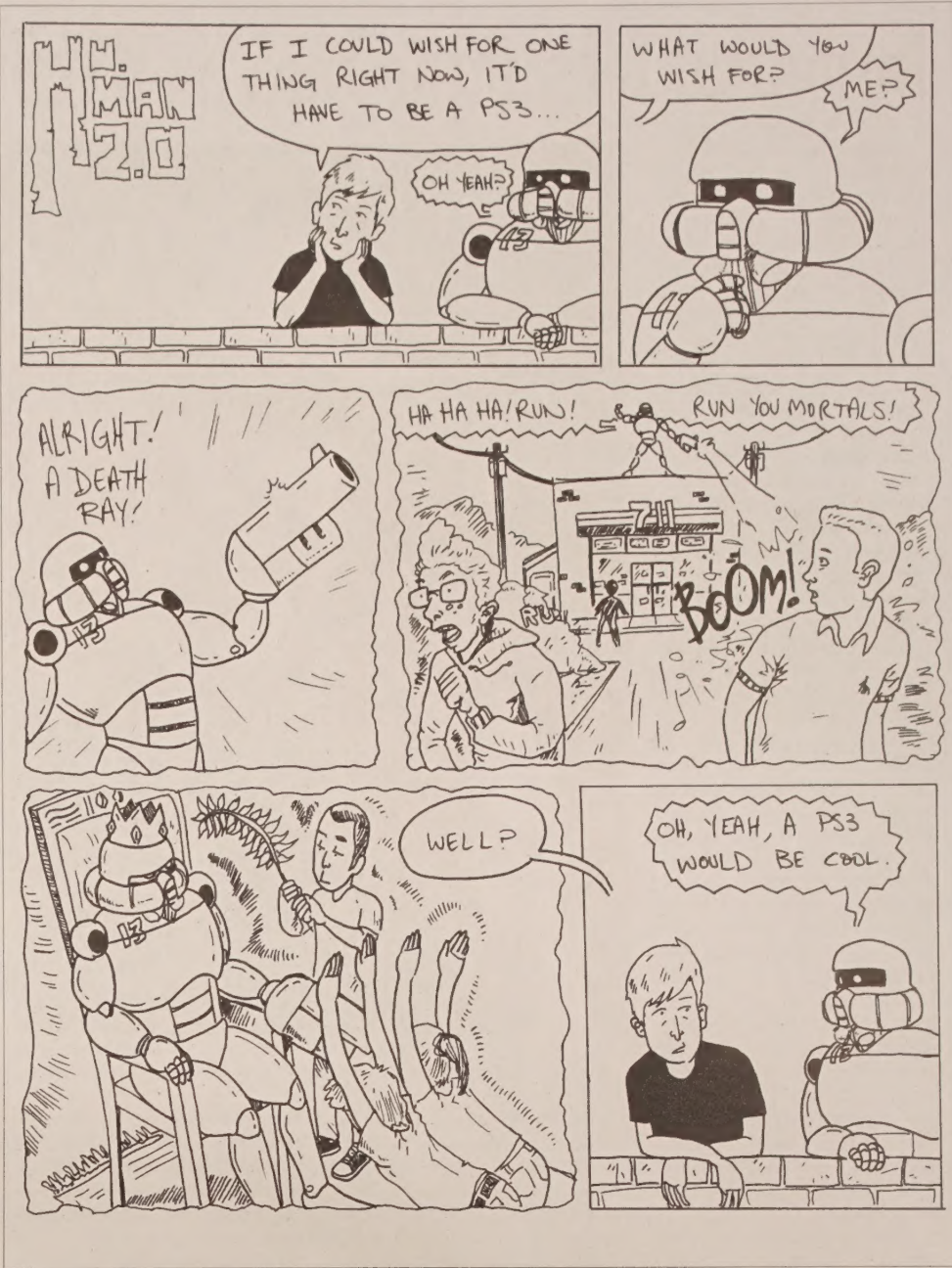
Dear Carlos,
Good question. Making a sex tape requires a camera and a willing participant, but there's a lot more that goes into it. You need to consider many factors; are you having sex in a trailer, a tour bus, an all-white windowless room? Are you having sex in an affluent democracy or a third-world country with poor civil rights? Will the sex be democratic or socialist? Will someone be wearing socks?

Apart from these concerns, you also need to develop thematic motifs and a distinct narrative arc. What is this sex tape trying to say? Sure, you might be banging this slutty girl that you met at a bowling alley happy hour, but really, you just want to end world hunger. This is the real point of sex tapes: philanthropy. Helping the less fortunate while doing three chicks at the same time. God bless America.

Matt Diamond will never stop using the word "chick." He can be contacted at mdiamond@jhu.edu.

Hu.man 2.0

by William Parschalk



Wasted Ink

by Nate Min



What's Different

by Matt Hansen

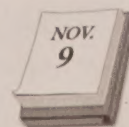
The malevolent graphics staff has altered certain details between the first and second photographs. Can you find all seven changes in the second photograph?



CALENDAR

CALENDAR

Nov. 9-Nov. 15

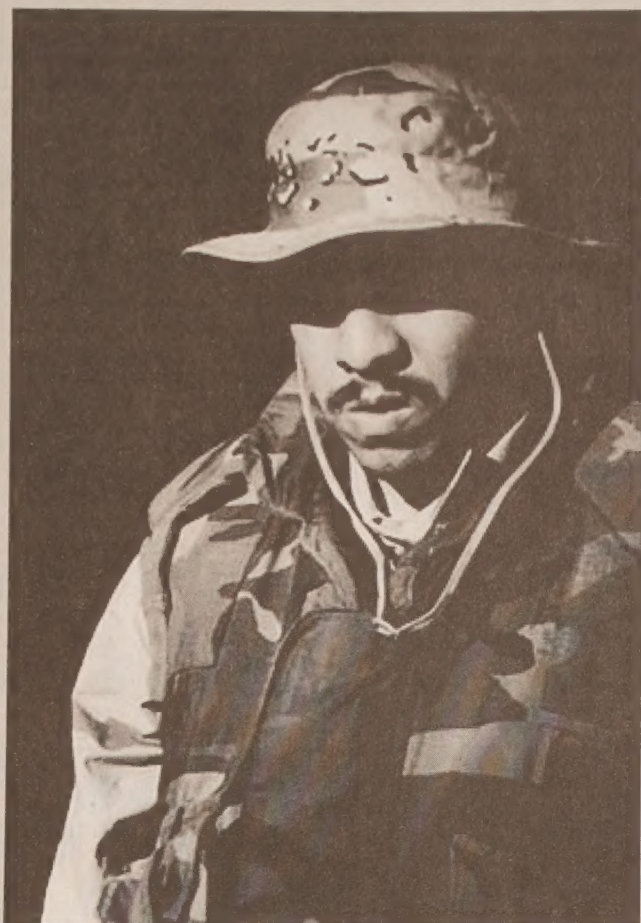


Immortal technique raps at MSES

Rapper Immortal Technique will perform at Hopkins tonight as the conclusion of this year's Milton S. Eisenhower Speaker Symposium. An icon of hip-hop culture, Immortal Technique's performance will be a suitable end to the Symposium, the theme of which was "The Role of America's Youth." Immortal represents in many ways the urban youth culture of today and brings to the public stories of life for young people growing up in America's inner cities. He has also recently worked with young offenders in juvenile detention centers in the U.S.

Born Felipe Coronel in a military hospital in South America, Immortal Technique moved to the United States in the early 1980s as civil war erupted in his native Peru. Growing up on the streets of Harlem, he was fascinated with hip-hop culture, starting to rhyme at an early age and becoming an avid graffiti artist as a young man. He managed to finish high school and get accepted to a state university, though facing incarceration for multiple assault charges in New York and around the tri-state area. It was then that he began to prolifically write down the stories of what he had seen and lived with both in the struggles in Harlem and Central America. During his two-year prison sentence, Immortal Technique began to turn his stories into lyrics and write songs.

Paroled in 1999, Immortal began to participate in the city's lyrical warfare — battling. His brutal, raw style became trademark, and he won countless battles. However, he eventually realized that winning battles was non-synonymous with success in the music world and turned his attention to production, but major labels were uncomfortable with his hardcore street style. Immortal eventually independently released the critically acclaimed *Revolutionary Vol. 1*. He is now the President of Viper Records and released his sophomore



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.VIPERRECORDS.COM](http://www.viperrecords.com)
Controversial rapper Immortal Technique comes from Harlem to Hopkins Thursday.

album, *Revolutionary Vol. 2*. He has also recently done work for movie soundtracks, including the new Mario Van Peebles film, *BAADASSSSS*, and has been featured in *XXL Magazine*, *The Washington Post* and *The Source*. Immortal Technique, now recently back from a successful West Coast tour and booking a European tour, is currently recording his highly anticipated third album, *The Middle Passage*, as well as working on a fourth album, the third and last volume in the *Revolutionary* series.

Immortal Technique covers raw social issues in his music, including urban poverty, international economic equality and the U.S. military industrial complex. Immortal has also tackled events such as the killing of prominent Black Panthers member Fred

Hampton by the FBI, the military occupation of Palestine by Israeli troops and the hunting and killing of revolutionary leader Che Guevara by the CIA.

He has described himself as a "socialist guerilla," and many of his views align closely with contemporary Marxism. Immortal attracted a great deal of political attention for his single "Bin Laden," featuring Mos Def, on which he blames the Reagan Doctrine (under which the U.S. provided aid for the mujahideen in Afghanistan) and President George W. Bush for the September 11 attacks.

Immortal Technique will perform tonight in Shriver Hall tonight at 8 p.m. Doors open at 7:30 p.m.

— Yasin Akbari

flight Center, in the Bloomberg Center (Homewood Campus), Schaeffer Auditorium. Sponsored by the Department of Physics and Astronomy.

4 p.m. Massachusetts Health Reform: The Key Issues will be presented by John Holahan, Ph.D. Director, Health Policy Center, the Urban Institute, at the East Baltimore Campus. Sponsored by the Institute for Policy Studies, the Department of Economics, Department of Health Policy and Management, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. For more information, contact Mary-Jo Ford Dale, (410)-516-7174, mjdale@jhu.edu.

4 p.m. Minimization Models and Algorithms For Image Segmentation, Image Decomposition and Texture Modeling will be presented by Luminita Vese, Ph.D. Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics, UCLA, in Whitehead 304. Sponsored by the Department of Applied Mathematics and Statistics.

4 p.m. The Seminar in Political and Moral Thought: Machiavelli and the Rule of Law will be presented by Stephen Holmes, Professor of Political Science at New York University in Gilman 348. Sponsored by the Seminar in Political and Moral Thought. For more information, contact Professor John Marshall, (410)-516-0458

5 p.m. A Freshman/Sophomore Prehealth Information Session will be hosted by Mary Catherine Savage, JD, Director, Office of Pre-Professional Programs and Advising, in Mergenthaler 111. Sponsored by the Office of Pre-Professional Advising. For more information, call 410-516-4140.

7 p.m. The PLAS Film Series will continue tonight in Maryland 110.

7 p.m. Birds of the World will be presented in the Carriage House of Evergreen House. For more information, call (410)-516-0341. Sponsored by the Evergreen House.

Friday, Nov. 10

12:15 p.m. Genome Size, Genetic Stability and Cancer will be presented by guest David Pellman, visiting from the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute of Harvard Medical School at 3520 San Martin Drive. Sponsored by the Carnegie Institute.

3:30 p.m. Zero to 3900: Visualizing North Charles Street, a Joint JHU/MICA Project, hosted by Charlie Duff, president of Jubilee Baltimore and executive director of Midtown Development Inc., in Mattin 160. Sponsored by the Digital Media Center. For more information, call Joan Freedman, (410)-516-3817.

4 p.m. Gottfried Benn and the Medical Discourse will be pre-

sented by Klaus Bergdolt of the University of Cologne, Germany, in Gilman 223. Sponsored by the German Department and Romance Languages Department. For more information, contact Rebecca Swisdak, (410)-516-7508, rswidak@jhu.edu.

5 p.m. Installation of Dr. Thomas A. Laveist as the Inaugural William C. and Nancy F. Richardson Professor in Health Policy, in the Bloomberg Building (615 N. Wolfe Street), Sheldon Hall. Sponsored by External Affairs, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health.

7:30 p.m. Peabody Latin Jazz Ensemble at the Peabody Institute, East Hall. \$18 General, \$10 Seniors, \$8 Students with ID.

8 p.m. The Jupiter String Quartet, in the Evergreen House. \$20 general admission, \$15 members. Sponsored by the Evergreen House. For more information, call (410)-516-0341

8 p.m. Neil Simon's "The Good Doctor", in the Swirnow Theater (Mattin Center). \$7 general admission, \$5 with J-card. Sponsored by the Barnstormers. For more information, e-mail jhu-barnstormers@jhu.edu.

8 p.m. Beer Tasting to Benefit the Maryland Food Bank at Huckas (2324 Boston Street). Sponsored by the Graduate Student Association, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, the Graduate Representative Organization, Johns Hopkins University, and the Organization Advocating Student Interests, Peabody Institute.

Saturday, Nov. 11

9:15 a.m. MCAT Practice Exam, held by Kaplan/AED, in Remsen 1. Cost: \$5.00. Sponsored by Kaplan and AED - the Pre-Health Honors Society. For more information, contact Ann Peters, apeter26@jhu.edu.

9:30 a.m. Day in Honor of Poet Allen Grossman, in Gilman 110. Sponsored by the Humanities Center. For more information, call Marva Philip, (410)-516-7619.

7:30 p.m. Peabody Camerata at the Peabody Institute, Leith Symington Griswold Hall.

8 p.m. King of Hearts, hosted by Alpha Phi, in the Glass Pavilion. Admission is \$5. Sponsored by Alpha Phi and the Office of Greek Life. For more information, contact Julia Tracey, jtracey4@jhu.edu.

Monday, Nov. 13

12 a.m. The Current and Future Direction of Summer Learning Policies, hosted by Brenda McLaughlin, M.P.P. and Ron Fairchild, M.Ed., in the Wyman Park Building, room 526. Sponsored by the Institute for Policy Studies. For more information, call Mary-Jo Dale, (410)-516-7174.

12 p.m. Kidneys for Sale! Why Markets in Human Body Parts Are Morally Imperative, presented by James S. Taylor, Ph.D., Department of Philosophy and Religion, College of New Jersey, in Hampton House, room 250. Sponsored by the Berman Bioethics Institute. For more information, contact Kathy Chen, kchen@jhsph.edu.

Campus Events

Thursday, November. 9

9 a.m. Third Annual Responsible Conduct of Research Workshop, in the Bloomberg Building (615 N. Wolfe St.), room W1030, East Baltimore Campus. Sponsored by the Office of Graduate Education and Research, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. For more information, contact Margi Joshi, (410)-502-0433, mjoshi@jhsph.edu.

11 a.m. The Inclusion & Care of Underrepresented Populations in Clinical Research — Engaging the Community: Community Health Worker Initiatives, will be presented by special guests Norma Hardy, M.Ed., and Christina Lee, Ph.D., visiting from Brown University, in the Bloomberg Building (615 N. Wolfe St.), room W2303, East Baltimore Campus. Sponsored by the Department of Health, Behavior & Society, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. For more information, contact Lee Bone, (410)-955-6887, lbone@jhsph.edu.

11 a.m. The Joys of Aggregation will be presented by Michael Edidin, KSAS, in Maryland 110. Sponsored by the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering.

12 p.m. A Brown Bag Discussion will be hosted by Debra Law, Summer Research Award Grantee, in the Greenhouse, room 3.

12 p.m. A Black Faculty and Staff Association Executive Board Meeting will be hosted by Robert Holder on the East Baltimore Campus, Building TBA.

12 p.m. Measuring the Costs of Environmental Tobacco Smoke will be presented by Hugh Waters, Ph.D., MS, Assistant Pro-

fessor, Department of International Health, in the Bloomberg Building (615 N. Wolfe St.), room W3030. Sponsored by the Department of Environmental Health Sciences, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. For more information, contact Brian Fitzek, (443)-287-2905, bfitzek@jhsph.edu.

12 p.m. The Genome Size, Genetic Stability and Cancer will be presented by David Pellman, visiting from the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute of Harvard Medical School. East Baltimore Campus, 1830 Building, Suite 2-200. Sponsored by the Department of Cell Biology.

12:10 p.m. Those Last Few Pounds will be presented by Janice Bowie, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Department of Health, Behavior & Society, at the East Baltimore Campus in Hampton House (624 N. Broadway St.), room 250. Sponsored by the Department of Health, Behavior & Society, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. For more information, contact Debora Mace, (410)-502-4076, dmace@jhsph.edu.

12:15 p.m. Patterns of Care Seeing and Treatment Among Sick Children in Bougouni District, Mali, will be presented by Ph.D. candidate Kate Elizabeth Gilroy, Department of Epidemiology in the Bloomberg Building (615 N. Wolfe Street), room W2017. Sponsored by the Department of Epidemiology, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. For more information, contact Fran Burman, (410)-955-3926, fburman@jhsph.edu.

1 p.m. Cellular Mechanisms of Acute Axo-Glial Injury will be presented by Peter Stys, visiting from the University of Ottawa, Ottawa Health Research Institute, at the East Baltimore Campus. Building: WBSB, West

Lecture Hall. Sponsored by the Department of Neuroscience.

3 p.m. Women, Men and Tobacco Smoking in China's Medical Culture, 1600-1930, will be presented by Carol Benedict of Georgetown University. Welch Medical Library, third floor Seminar Room. Sponsored by the Department of History of Science, Medicine and Technology.

3:30 p.m. Binary Black Holes, Gravitational Waves and Numerical Relativity, presented by Joan Centrella, Goddard Space-

MOVIE OPENING

Stranger Than Fiction

Movie debuting at the AMC Towson Theater this Friday
Showtimes: 1:30 p.m., 5:15 p.m., 8:15 p.m., 10:45 p.m.



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.IMDB.COM](http://www.imdb.com)
Will Ferrell plays an IRS auditor whose life is mysteriously controlled by a novel written by Emma Thompson. Co-stars Maggie Gyllenhal and Dustin Hoffman.



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.SCARLETPAGE.COM](http://www.scarletpage.com)
Indie group ...And You Will Know Us By the Trail of Dead rocks Tuesday.

...Trail of Dead rocks out at 9:30 club this Tuesday

... And You Will Know Us by the Trail of Dead will perform at the 9:30 Club this Tuesday evening. An indie rock band known for their anthemic music and continuation of the rock and roll tradition of destroying their equipment at the end of their performances, the group takes its name from an ancient Mayan ritual chant which shows a striking similarity to an ancient Egyptian chant, an ongoing joke between fans and the group.

The chief creative minds in the group are Jason Reece and Conrad Keely who switch off between drumming and lead vocals and guita, on their albums as well as during their shows, though on some recorded songs, former bass player Neil Busch performed lead vocals. Childhood friends Keely and Reece formed their first band in 1993 after moving together to Olympia, Wash. from Hawaii.

After a number of short-lived bands they formed floundered, the pair tired of the Northwest and moved to Austin, Texas and started playing as a duo under the name You Will Know Us by the Trail of Dead. The group soon expanded to include guitarist Kevin Allen

and bassist Neil Busch and officially changed their name to ...And You Will Know Us by the Trail of Dead, though the band's name is frequently abbreviated to "Trail of Dead". Trail of Dead released their first, self-titled album in 1998, and has since changed its lineup, dropping original bassist Busch and adding a new bassist and a second drummer, as well as released four more albums, including their latest effort, *So Divided*, to be released Nov. 14.

The show at the 9:30 Club is expected to be a solid rock experience from a band who enjoys playing as much as the audience enjoys watching. The group is known for its confidence and effortless transitions from song to song in concert, and fans will appreciate the blend of old and new music that has reportedly been performed so far in the band's tour. One caution: Trail of Dead is not the optimal show for the passive concertgoer — if you mind being thrashed by a mob of fans, you may need to let go of some inhibitions to enjoy the group's raucous performance of experimental rock.

— Yasin Akbari

CALENDAR

Katrina survivor and artist Birch at MICA

Celebrating Freedom: The Art of Willie Birch will be exhibited this month at the Decker and Meyerhoff Galleries (1303 Mount Royal Ave.). It is a celebration of African-American life in Birch's native New Orleans prior to Hurricane Katrina, rendered beautifully in detailed charcoal drawings as large as seven by eleven feet, a break from his

traditional, widely-known style of folk-inspired *papier-mâché* sculpture. All of the work displayed is new to the public. The works are flavored by Birch's strong character study and observations of social dynamic, as well as his ability to convey these feelings in visual art. Themes depicted include the famous Mardi Gras parties and parades of New Orleans, Martin

Luther King Day celebrations, the close-knit structure of many African-American families, baptisms, Sunday rituals and jazz funerals. Critics who have already seen the exhibit at different venues have commented on Birch's "fascination by the retention of African roots in the dress, music, dance and rituals that enliven and unite the African American community." Many Americans

believe strongly in the stereotypes of New Orleans culture, and this exhibit also aims to help the public understand the historical side of the city's cultural customs. Showing his work in Baltimore represents, for Birch, a return to the city that taught him much of what he knows as an artist. Although he was born in New Orleans, he earned his MFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA). He has shown his work

in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the New Orleans Museum of Art, the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art and the Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts, among others. Another exhibit occurring this weekend honors Willie Birch as well. Exodus, Revelation and Reality will be premiered at Birch's alma mater, MICA. This exhibit features *papier-mâché* and mixed media sculptures influenced by Hurricane Katrina. The sculptures make use of bits of debris found in the wake of the hurricane. Gerald Ross, director of exhibitions at MICA, said and curator of the exhibition, "For Birch, this exhibition clearly has its genesis in the effects of Katrina, but the catastrophe served only to strengthen the artist's already intense vision of culture and community." Additionally, a lecture series and daylong symposium, "After the Storm: Art, Culture, and Politics Beyond Katrina," will address the role of culture and politics.

To learn more about Celebrating Freedom: The Art of Willie Birch, call 410-225-2300. To learn more about Willie Birch: Exodus, Revelation, and Reality, visit <http://www.mica.edu>.

— Yasin Akbari



Katrina survivor and artist Willie Birch has a show at the Decker and Meyerhoff Galleries this weekend.

4 p.m. **Bohemians Before Bohemianism**, presented by Robert Darnton, visiting from Princeton University, in Gilman 315. Sponsored by the History Department. For more information call 410-516-7575.

5:30 p.m. **The Homewood Arts Workshops**, hosted by Neil Riley, Columbus College of Art and Design, in the F. Ross Jones Building, room 101. Sponsored by the Homewood Arts Workshop. For more information call Craig Hankin, 410-516-6705.

6 p.m. **The 95th Percy Graene Turnbull Memorial Poetry Lecture**, presented by Willard Spiegelman, Hughes Professor of English Southern Methodist University, in Mudd Auditorium. Sponsored by the Writing Seminars Department.

7 p.m. **Communicating in a Crisis**, presented by Michael Brown, Former Director of FEMA, at 1717 Massachusetts Ave., on lower level 7. Sponsored by the Johns Hopkins Master of Arts in Communication program. For more information call 202-452-8711.

Concert Listings

Thursday, Nov. 9

6 p.m. **Thursday Mania Happy Hour** at the Ottobar! Featuring guest DJ Jason Dove. Must be 21 and over to enter. For more information visit <http://www.theottobar.com>.

6:30 p.m. **Fiend Fest 2006**, featuring the Misfits, will happen tonight at Rams Head. Other acts featured include special guest Osaka Popstar, the Addicts, UK Sub, Juicehead, and Orange Thursday. For more information, visit <http://www.ramsheadlive.com>.

7 p.m. **Heavens**, featuring Matt Skiba of AlkalineTrio and Josiah Steinbrick of F Minus, with special guests Darker My Love at the Ottobar. For more information visit <http://www.theottobar.com>.

7 p.m. **She Wants Revenge** with Pretty Girls Make Graves and Monsters Are Waiting at the 9:30 Club. For more information, visit <http://www.930.com>.

7:30 p.m. **Air Raids Thursday** at the Ottobar. Featuring live acts Shakes Davies, Angie and Mod Dave. Don't forget, when you hear the siren wailing, there are free Kamikaze shots at the bar! Must be 21 and over to enter. For more information visit <http://www.theottobar.com>.

8 p.m. **Method Mán**, Inspectah Deck, and Masta Killa with openers Minlus & McCracken and P Funk, with host Sonny Brown,

will perform at Sonar. For more information visit <http://www.sonarlounge.com>.

Friday, Nov. 10

7:30 p.m. **Pasadena**, Can't Hang, and Late Night Breakfast will perform with Gizmo, Bond & Bently, and the Root Workers at Sonar. For more information visit <http://www.sonarlounge.com>.

8 p.m. **Baltimoresun.com's 10th Anniversary** celebration presents Los Lonely Boys at Rams Head. For more information visit <http://www.ramsheadlive.com>.

8 p.m. **Medeski Scofield Martin & Wood** play a sold-out show at the 9:30 Club. For more information visit <http://www.930.com>.

9 p.m. Come see the return of **Liars Academy** at the Ottobar! They will play their first show in over a year with the Oranges Band, Chris Batten and the Woods, and the Expotentials. For more information visit <http://www.theottobar.com>.

9 p.m. **J Roddy Walston and the Business** with openers the Casettes, So Many Dynamos, and Trolleyvox perform at the Talking Head Club. For more information visit <http://www.talkingheadclub.com>.

9 p.m. **Dave Nada**, Simon D Phoenix, Nova Men, and Julian S Process are spinning tonight at the Taxlo Indie Dance Party, playing the best of indie rock, hip hop, and electro. Remember. \$1 drinks from 9-11 p.m.! For more information visit <http://www.sonarlounge.com>.

Saturday, Nov. 11

6 p.m. **North Mississippi Allstars** with Spencer/Dickinson at the 9:30 Club. For more information visit <http://www.930.com>.

6:30 p.m. Punk-pop group **New Found Glory** will perform to promote their new album, *Coming Home*, with openers the Early November, Cartel and Hit the Lights at Rams Head Live! For more information visit <http://www.ramsheadlive.com>.

9 p.m. **Last Underground Dance Party** at the Ottobar! After 5 1/2 years, Baltimore's favorite Brit-pop, indie, new wave dance party is retiring. Come celebrate. No cover all night! For more information visit <http://www.theottobar.com>.

9:30 p.m. **Les Georges Leningrad** with Duchess Says, Odd Bones, and Dazzle Storm at the Talking Head Club. For more information visit <http://www.talkingheadclub.com>.

11:30 p.m. **Blowoff**, featuring the sounds of DJ Bob Mould and Richard More will play the late show at the 9:30 Club. Must be 21 and over to enter. For more information visit <http://www.930.com>.

Sunday, Nov. 12

6 p.m. **The Idan Raichel Project** will perform at the early show at the 9:30 Club. For more information visit <http://www.930.com>.

8 p.m. **Now It's Overhead**, Gary B and the Notions, the Seldon Plan, and Active Sac play the Ottobar. For more information visit <http://www.theottobar.com>.

9 p.m. **Weekly Tasty! Party** featuring an all-female DJ Collective. 2-for-1 drinks all night, plus \$3 Jameson shots. Must be 21 and over to enter. For more information visit <http://www.theottobar.com>.

9:30 p.m. **Pleaseeasaur**, with Joe Jack Talcum of Dead Milkmen, Neil Medlyn's Lionel Richie Opera, and Dazzle Storm, will perform at the Talking Head Club. For more information visit <http://www.talkingheadclub.com>.

10 p.m. **Cut Chemist** with openers Lyrics Born and Nighttime Gallagher play the late show at the 9:30 Club. For more information visit <http://www.930.com>.

Monday, Nov. 13

6:30 p.m. **+44** with the Matches at the 9:30 Club. For more information visit <http://www.930.com>.

8 p.m. Music Monthly presents the **All-Star Jam** at Sonar, featuring Dennis Chambers, Carey Ziegler, Tommy Alonso, Terry Battle, Waren Boes and many, many more. For more information visit <http://www.sonarlounge.com> and <http://www.musicmonthly.com>.

10 p.m. **Imogen Heap** with opener Kid Beyond rocks the late show at the 9:30 Club. For more information visit <http://www.930.com>.

Tuesday, Nov. 14

7 p.m. Alternative Press and eMusic Present ... **And You Will Know Us By The Trail of Dead**, with openers The Blood Brothers at the 9:30 Club. For more information visit <http://www.930.com>.

8 p.m. Come see reggae royalty **Ziggy Marley** perform with opener Brett Dennen at Sonar. For more information visit <http://www.sonarlounge.com>.

8 p.m. **Lucero**, Drag the River Trio and Rocky Votolato at the

NIGHTLIFE

Clubs

9:30 Club, 815 V St., NW, Washington, D.C., (202) 393-0930
Baja Beach Club, 55 Market Place, (410) 727-0468
Bohagers, 701S. Eden St., (410) 563-7220
Black Cat, 1811 14th St. NW, Washington, D.C. (202) 667-7960
Brass Monkey, 1601 Eastern Ave., (410) 522-0784
Buddies Pub and Jazz Club, 313 N. Charles St., (410) 332-4200
Cat's Eye Pub, 1730 Thames St., (410) 276-9085
Club 2314, 2314 Boston St., (410) 276-9556
DeGroen's Grill, 104 Albemarle St., (410) 837-5000
Fletcher's, 701 S. Bond St., (410) 558-1889
Hal Daddy's, 4119 E. Lombard St., (410) 342-3239
Harry's, 1200 N. Charles St., (410) 685-2828
Hammerjacks, 316 Guilford Ave., (410) 234-0044
Horse You Came In On, 1626 Thames St., (410) 327-8111
Iguana Cantina, 124 Market Place, (410) 244-0200
Latin Palace, 509 S. Broadway, (410) 522-6700
Lava Lounge, Pier Four, (410) 539-7888
Ottobar, 2549 N. Howard St., (410) 662-0069
Recher Theatre, 512 York Road., Towson, (410) 337-7178
Redwood Trust, 200 E. Redwood St., (410) 669-9500
Sonar, 407 E. Saratoga St., (410) 327-8333
The Talking Head, 203 E. Davis St., (410) 962-5588
The Vault, 401 W. Baltimore St., (410) 244-6000
Waterfront Hotel, 1710 Thames St., (410) 327-4886
Wyatt's, 1614 Eastern Ave., (410) 732-8656

Comedy

Comedy Factory, 36 Light St., (410) 752-4189
The Improv, 6 Market Place. at Power Plant Live, (410) 727-8500
Tracy's Comedy Shop, 9306 Harford Road., (410) 665-8600

Coffee

Borders Bookstore and Music, 415 York Road., (410) 296-0791
Café Tattoo, 4825 Belair Road., (410) 325-7427
Carma's Café, 3120 St. Paul St., (410) 243-5200
Donna's, 3101 St. Paul St., (410) 889-3410
Fell's Point Café, 723 S. Broadway, (410) 327-8800
Funk's Democratic Coffee, 1818 Eastern Ave., (410) 276-3865
HopStop, Levering Hall, JHU, (410) 516-6219
Images Café, 3120 St. Paul St., (410) 235-3054
Margaret's Café, 909 Fell St., (410) 276-5606
One World Café, 100 W. University Parkway, (410) 235-5777
Red Emma's, 800 St. Paul St.
Sweet Retreat, 3215 N. Charles St.
Xandos, 3003 N. Charles St., (410) 889-7076
Ze Mean Bean Café, 1739 Fleet St., (410) 675-5999

Movie Theatres

AMC Towson Commons 8, 435 York Road., (410) 825-5233
Charles Theatre, 1711 N. Charles St., (410) 727-FILM
Rotunda Cinematheque, 711 W. 40th St., (410) 235-4800
Senator Theatre, 5904 York Road., (410) 435-8338

more information, call the Maryland Institute College of Art, 410-225-2300.

3 p.m. **Forces of Nature: the Paintings of Marlene Tseng Yu**, at the Asian Arts and Culture Center at Towson University. New York-based Tseng Yu will present her large-scale abstract paintings, inspired by nature and cosmology. Admission is free. For more information, call 410-704-2807.

Friday, Nov. 10

5 p.m. **Free Fridays** at the Walters Art Museum. For more information, call 410-547-9000.

Wednesday, Nov. 15

6 p.m. **Hardcore Hump Day Happy Hour** at the Ottobar. Cheap drinks all night plus DJ Iron Maben spinning hardcore, thrash, oi, and more. Must be 21 and over to enter. For more information visit <http://www.theottobar.com>.

7 p.m. **State Radio** with Xavier Rudd at the 9:30 Club. For more information visit <http://www.930.com>.

8 p.m. Ex-Guided by Voices member **Robert Pollard** is set to perform at Sonar. For more information visit <http://www.sonarlounge.com>.

9 p.m. **The Stallyons**, IV Thieves, and guests perform at the Ottobar. For more information visit <http://www.theottobar.com>.

Visual Arts

Thursday, Nov. 9

10 a.m. **Celebrating Freedom: the Art of Willie Birch** will be exhibited at the Decker and Meyerhoff galleries, 1303 Mount Royal Ave. Birch's painting, sculpture, and mixed media works examine the African-American experience and are largely influenced by his displacement from his New Orleans home after Hurricane Katrina. For

with artist Anthony Corradetti, whose are is currently displayed in the Smithsonian's Renwick Gallery. Co-hosted by Creative Alliance Board Member Paolo Dadone at the new Corradetti Studio and Gallery in Clipper Mill. For more information, call 410-276-1651.

Friday, Nov. 10

7:30 p.m. **Dance Majors Performance Project** at Towson University. Come see a collection of exciting dance works choreographed by Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance students. \$10 general admission, \$8 students and seniors.

— Compiled by Yasin Akbari

Local Events/Live Performances

Thursday, Nov. 9

10:30 a.m. **Paul Acampora** will be at the Central Library (400 Cathedral St.) to discuss and sign his new book, *Defining Dulcie*.

6 p.m. **Make your own glass art**

BARGAIN EVENTS

Free
Agents and Assets

As part of the Free Fall Baltimore program, a free performance of Agents and Assets', a new Theatre Project production, will be presented at 8 p.m. on Nov. 9. Agents and Assets dramatizes a 1998 Congressional hearing about allegations of CIA involvement in cocaine trafficking to fund the Nicaraguan Contras. The issues addressed by 'Agents and Assets' resonate with current events and even the core of our notions of democracy. For more information, call 410-752-8558.

\$5 to \$10
MicroCineFest

MicroCineFest 2006 is one of the top underground film festivals in Baltimore. Described as "ambitious, creative, daring, do-it-yourself, low budget, offbeat, original, psychotronic," the festival shows underground films and videos from all over the world. MicroCineFest will be held this year from Nov. 9-12 at the G-Spot in Hampden (2980 Falls Road) for \$5 a ticket. The box office opens one hour before the first screening every day. For line-up, schedule and more general information, visit <http://www.microcinefest.org> or call 410-243-5307.

\$10 to \$25+
Home and Beast

Home and Beast is an exhibit at the American Visionary Art Museum that explores our notion of home and is essentially an ode to all of the animals, real and imaginary, in our lives. Featuring 'home' installations by Loring Cornish and the wondrous Mr. Imagination, a film by animator Bruce Bickford, the kinetic sculptures of farmer and artist Bruce Bickford, along with the crayon work of Nellie Mae Rowe. For more information, call 410-244-1900 or visit <http://www.avam.org>.

Got an Event?

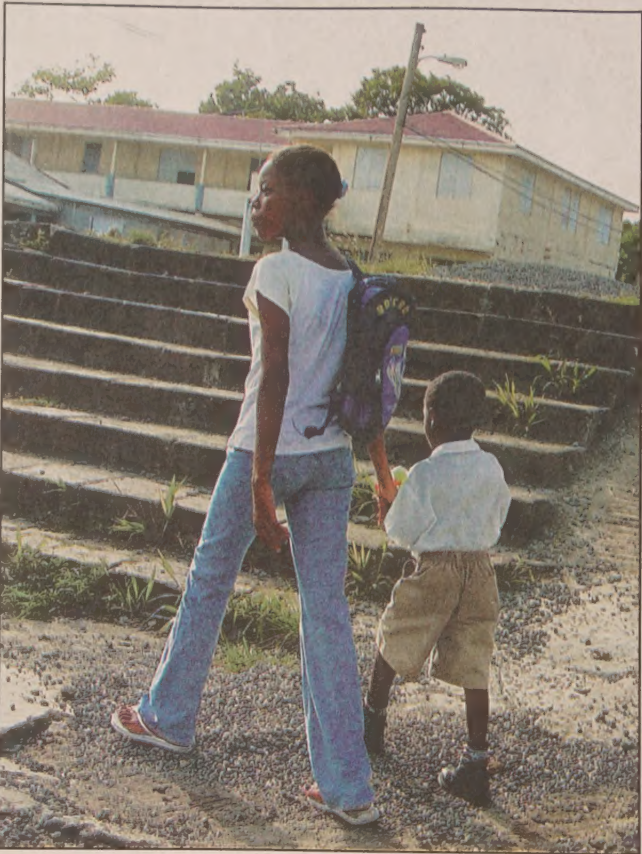
Send details about future events, including date, time, location a brief summary of the event to events@jhnewsletter.com. Please e-mail all events the Monday before publication.

DOMINICA

Photos by KATLYN TORGENSEN and LISA ELY
Text by KATLYN TORGENSEN



Dominica is known as the "Nature Island of the Caribbean," albeit more for its 365 majestic rivers than its few, but unspoiled beaches.



Dominicans speak patois, a French-based creole language. Here, a mother takes her son to school, where children are taught to read and write in English.



A street vendor grills plantains in the city of Portsmouth, Dominica's second largest city and home to Cabrits National Park, a popular scuba diving destination because of its coral reefs.



This pristine location along the island-country's Atlantic coast was chosen for the filming of *Pirates of the Caribbean 2: Dead Man's Chest*.



One of Dominica's other nicknames is "The Island of Disrepair" because of the abandoned refuse that can often be seen dotting its landscape.